

Price of a barrel of petroleum
US\$ 66.73
 2.58 ▼

INSIDE TODAY

U.S. NEWS

EVICTED

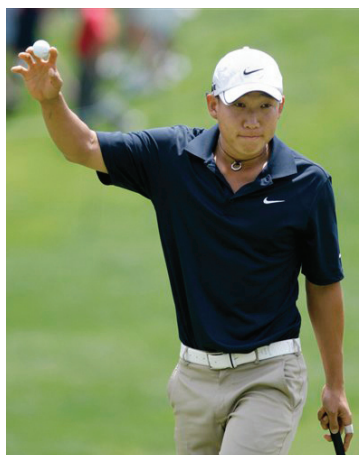


In this March 22, 2009 file photo, the building in midtown Manhattan in New York where Bernard Madoff and wife Ruth own a penthouse apartment is seen in this aerial view. The U.S. Marshals Service have taken possession of the \$7 million Manhattan penthouse Thursday, July 2, 2009.

See World News See Page 5

SPORTS NEWS

NATIONAL MARK



Anthony Kim waves to the gallery after putting out for birdie on the eighth hole during the first round of the AT&T National golf tournament at Congressional Country Club, Thursday, July 2, 2009, in Bethesda, Md.

See Sports Today Page 11

Gianni's in top form!

Italy is showcased to perfection during superb Banfi dinner

ORANJESTAD - Visitors, guests and local restaurateurs mingled joyously last Wednesday evening, when Romar Trading hosted a dinner in honor of Sharron McCarthy of Banfi Vintners Wine Education and Raymond Rivera, District Manager of the Caribbean. A veritable feast ensued, not in the least because of the excellent dinner and service at Gianni's Ristorante Italiano and the fantastic Banfi wines.

Stella and Milton Harms of Romar Trading welcomed their guests together with wine expert Clive Faustin and Monique Bouwer. And as the various courses were served, Sharron McCarthy went from table to table to tell interesting details about the wines that were served.

Continued on Page 2



At The Westin Resort, Aruba

"Triple Happy Hour" tonight at the WESTIN

Everyone will be there tonight!



PALMBEACH – There's a new hot Happy Hour on the island and it's at The Westin Resort, Aruba. Tonight the venue will be at the Tambo Bar for three hours of drink specials, hors d'oeuvres, live music, and dancing from 7:00pm to 10:00pm.

The most amazing dance music will be provided by Czar and the Untokables who help create the ambience.

Continued on Page 9



CHOCOLATE, CARAMEL AND COOKIE
THE TWIX MIX
 IN THE NEW McFLURRY

Italy is showcased to perfection during superb Banfi dinner



Continued on from Front Page
After a toast on Gianni's porch with the San Angelo Pinot Grigio, it was time to be seated in the awesome, church-like interior of the restaurant. The first course was the Foccacia, Salame y Parmigiano

Reggiano; together with the soft, rounded taste of the Pinot Grigio it was a great start. Sharron said poetically: "This is history in a glass; you can taste the sunlight on the vines in Tuscany." It was true.

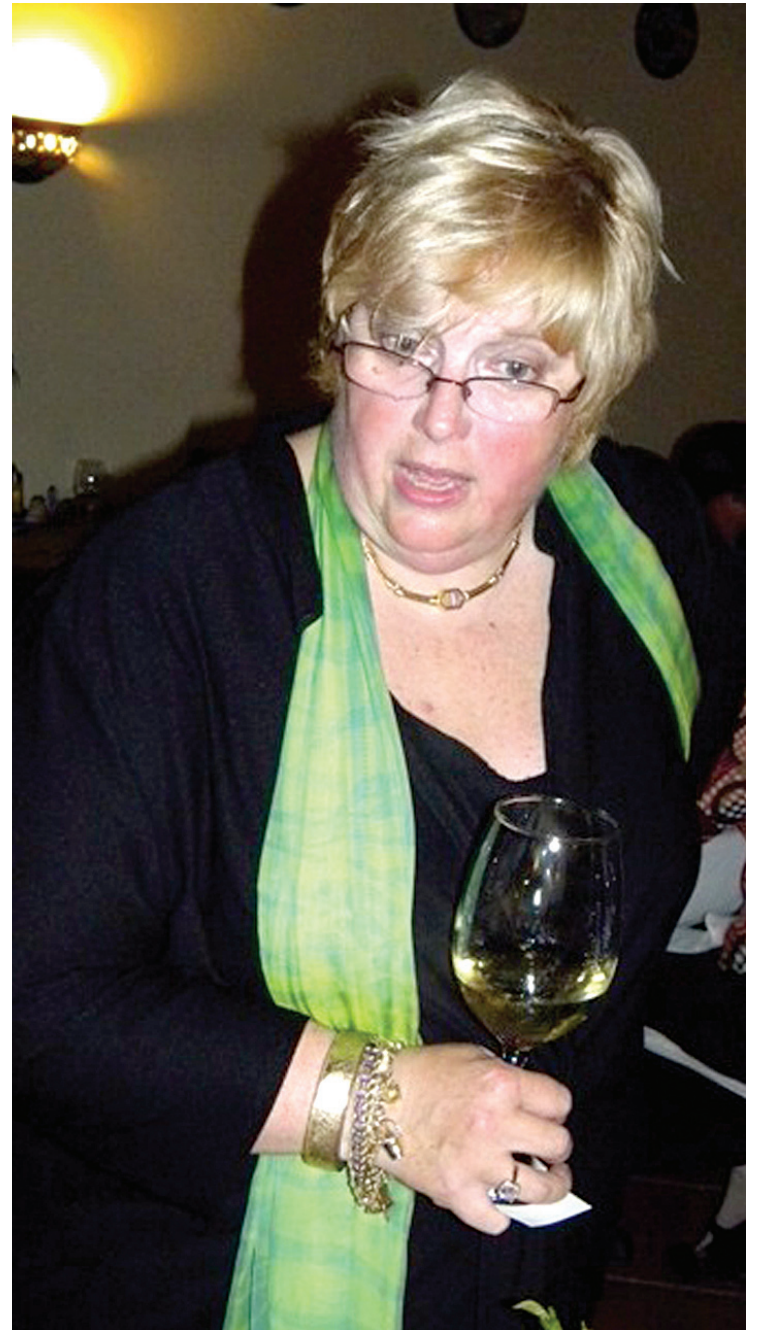


As the Peperoni Ripieni Arrostiti and the Scampi Carpi slid down the throats, the Pinot Grigio performed its magic again and again until the Risotto Sangiovese with Gorgonzola Cream was served with the Chianti Classico Riserva. This ruby red wine from the district between Florence and Siena was something else: overtones of cherry, wood and leather complimented the risotto. Sharron: "In Italy they say: drinking a white wine is like kissing your sister; drinking a red wine is like kissing your lover."

The Involtni di Vitello, thinly sliced veal rolled with buffalo mozzarella in a marsala wine sauce with porcini mushrooms, was next.

It was treated to the Roso di Montalcino, a quite fruity, soft wine with an intense aftertaste which lingered and lingered. A fantastic combination! The Rib-Eye Pizzaiola, black Angus rib eye beef was served with the Brunello di Montalcino, and Sharron said that this wine was extra special.

Banfi has the patent of an innovative way of aging: the barrels are made of wood in the middle, but they have stainless steel on the top and the bottom. The best of both



worlds combined! Starting from 2004 several top of the line Banfi wines have been aging in this new concept, which facilitates temperature control. Dinner was concluded with an irresistible Lemon Baba Chocolate Fondue, which got the Rosa Regale treatment. Castello Banfi is a huge

winery; it receives 70,000 visitors a year. As Tuscany was initially considered virgin territory for growing wines, that concept has changed. Nowadays the region is filled with old and new grape varieties and lots of experiments go on there, trying to reach that perfect, unbeatable wine. □



23 Annual Aruba Hi-Winds in full swing



MOOMBA BEACH - Aruba celebrates the 23rd anniversary of the annual Aruba Hi-Winds, the largest amateur windsurfing event in the Caribbean. The event, taking place July 1 - 6, 2009 at the Fisherman's Huts and Boca Grandi on the east side of the island, features exciting windsurfing and kite boarding competitions for visitors of all ages. Aruba, famous for its year-round trade winds and

calm seas, makes the island nation the perfect location for this series of events that attract professionals and amateurs alike. The Hi-Winds competition includes races for windsurfing and kite boarding. Categories featured are long distance, course racing, slalom and freestyle for windsurfing; and course racing and freestyle for kite boarding. Each category is open for men, women,

masters, juniors and kids. In addition to enjoying the competitions during the day, the Hi-Winds organizing committee has put together fun festivities to entertain all participants and guests in the evenings. Celebrations include a welcome party at Moomba on the first evening, followed by an elegant dinner on the beach hosted by Divi Resorts. On Saturday, dinner will be served at De Palm Island, and Sunday's party will take place on the beach with live music. This historic event dates back to 1987, where the Hi-Winds competition was the first event dedicated to hosting world champions and professionals in the windsurfing community. In 1997, the organizing committee turned the Hi-Winds from a top race to a fun, amateur event appealing to all kinds of audiences. In recent years, Freestyle Windsurfing was added to the program and



freestylers now compete for the coveted crown of "King of the Huts." The event's latest addition to the program is kite boarding, which has turned the competition into an immediate success with all audiences. To view a full event schedule,

entry fees and competition requirements for Hi-Winds, please visit www.hiwinds-aruba.com. For more information on travel to Aruba, please visit www.aruba.com

~ Photos by Julia Renfro ~

SCHEDULE ARUBA HI-WINDS 2009

Friday, July 3

- 10:00 Windsurfing: Slalom races
- 11:00 Kiteboarding @ **Boca Grandi**
- 12:00 Lunch on the beach by **Mc Donald's**
- 13:00 Windsurfing: Slalom races
- 13:00 Kids on the bus to **Palm Island**
- 15:00 End of races
- 16:00 Departure bus to **Palm Island**
- 17:30 Dinner @ **Palm Island/Taste of Belgium**
- 19:30 Return @ **Fisherman's Huts**

Saturday, July 4

- 10:00 Windsurfing: Slalom races
- 12:00 Lunch on the beach by Aruba Hi-Winds
- 13:30 Skippers meeting Windsurfing: Freestyle competition
- 14:00 Preliminaries Freestyle competition
- 14:00 - 22:00 **Cool FM** live on the beach
- Party on the beach: **DJ Rodrigo Peraza (Cool FM)**
- Party on the beach: **Earplugs/Roots Rebels**
- 17:00 - 19:00 Kiteboarding show and Hi-Winds **Amstel Bright Happy Hour**
- 19:30 Dinner on the beach by **Taste of Belgium**

Sunday, July 5

- 10:30 Skippers meeting Windsurfing: Kids Freestyle
- 11:00 Freestyle competition Kid of the Huts
- 11:30 Skippers meeting: Long distance races
- 12:00 Long distance races
- 13:00 Lunch on the beach by **Mc Donald's**
- 14:00 Skippers meeting: Freestyle competition
- 14:00 - 22:00 **Cool FM** live on the beach
- Fashion show by **Bula**
- Party on the beach: **Typical Jarro**
- Party on the beach: **Honeypot/Datapanik**
- 14:30 Freestyle competition King & Prince of the Huts
- 17:00 - 19:00 Kiteboarding show and Hi-Winds **Amstel Bright Happy Hour**
- 19:30 Dinner on the beach by Aruba Hi-Winds

Monday, July 6

- 10:00 Windsurfing: Slalom races
- 10:00 Kids Long distance races
- 11:00 Kiteboarding @ **Boca Grandi**
- 13:00 Lunch on the beach by **Dunkin Donuts**
- 13:00 End of races
- 19:30 Dinner & Awards Ceremony @ **Paseo Herencia/Taste of Belgium**

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- Conch Fritters
- Escargot
- Salad

Entrée

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- **Grilled Boneless Chicken Breast**

Dessert

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- Ice Cream
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Professional Pest Control's "Master technicians training" continued by Laureen Eman



ORANJESTAD - Recently Professional Pest Control, Aruba's oldest, largest and most professional pest control company, started to train her technicians to become "Master Technicians."

This Tuesday Laureen Eman, a marketing specialist, continued these courses by training all staff on "Client Communication" Professional Pest control has an ecological approach to pest management that effectively manages pests in a way that minimizes adverse effects on people and the environment. IPM (Integrated Pest Management) emphasizes an understanding of pest biology and behavior, and employs a number of different strategies designed to reduce the things pests need to survive and reproduce, including food, water, living space, and a way into the building.

Our clients need to be advised by our technicians on which IPM steps they can easily take themselves.



This will result in a pest free and more comfortable living environment.

The goal of "Professional Pest Control" is of course to increase the quality of services, to increase safety for customers and employees

but also to really enable the technicians to come up with the best

advice and treatment possible in any given situation.

Photos show Professional Pest Control's employees in their new training facilities. □



At Café the Plaza

Invincible Bier Hier wins the Baileys Quiz Night Series again!



ORANJESTAD - Bier Hier is unbelievable: the team won once again the Baileys' Quiz Night Series, an 8-edition long Tuesday evening happening at Café the Plaza in the Renaissance Marketplace. Although the team had not won each consecutive quiz night, their overall standings made them victorious over Kamikaze, Eureka and Synergy, all

veteran teams that are always very strong contenders for the title. The top three winners received a Sunset Sail courtesy of Red Sail Sports, a AWG. 100,-- gift certificate from Cactus Jack's and five bottles of Barefoot wine. To give you an idea how difficult or easy the questions are, we hereby pose them to you: In which year did the

movie 'Million Dollar Baby' win an Oscar; In which month was the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour, How should bishop Desmond Tutu be formally addressed? The answers are: 2005, December and Archbishop. Did you know them? Photos show the happy group of quizzers and the winning teams. Pabien! □



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Delays hamper constitutional process, says Dutch ministry

THE HAGUE--The process to build countries St. Maarten and Curaçao has suffered delay and probably will not be concluded in 2010, and neither will the dismantling of the country the Netherlands Antilles, according to the Dutch Ministry of Home Affairs and Kingdom Relations BZK.

Curaçao and St. Maarten still have to comply with a number of conditions, implied the ministry's latest progress report over the period January to May 2009. The report was sent to the Second Chamber on Tuesday in anticipation of a meeting of the Permanent Committee of Antillean and Aruban Affairs NAAZ with State Secretary of Home Affairs and Kingdom Relations Ank Bijleveld-Schouten today, Wednesday.

BZK cited the actual dismantling of the country the Netherlands Antilles while the future countries

are not ready to take over new tasks as a major risk in the phase of implementing agreements and Parliamentary approval.

St. Maarten and Curaçao have yet to submit an overview of tasks they will execute independently or together with other partners in the Kingdom to the Round Table Conference (RTC) presidium. As a result, a meeting of the presidium on June 16 and 17 was cancelled.

During the Political Consultation in Curaçao last week it was decided that Curaçao and St. Maarten would submit this document in two weeks, which is two months later than originally planned.

Curaçao and St. Maarten are responsible for implementing measures so they can comply with the conditions agreed on in the November 2006 Final Declaration. The Netherlands will stick to these agreements.

Efforts

The Netherlands Antilles, Curaçao and St. Maarten will have to continue making efforts to execute the necessary improvement trajectories in the area of maintaining law and order, which has to be adequate before the islands can attain country status.

It is important to dedicate proper attention and deploy sufficient capacity to realise the necessary legislation. It is also important to make available sufficient money and capacity to implement legislation and execute the various improvement trajectories in the area of justice.

BZK stated in the progress report that it was up to Curaçao and St. Maarten to continue complying with the norms of the Council of Financial Supervision CFT. Setting up a joint Central Bank for countries Curaçao and St. Maarten is a condition to acquire

country status.

According to the report, Curaçao and St. Maarten yet have to submit the remaining draft legislation that has yet to be checked by the advisory committee. This committee has decided that it will not meet until it has received all draft legislation. "This is delaying the review process."

Compliments

A number of legislation proposals and other documents have been handled by St. Maarten's Island Council. BZK also gave a few compliments.

The island has made a lot of effort to build the organisation of Country St. Maarten and to inform stakeholders. "Apart from the design of the new political, governmental organisation, St. Maarten is giving explicit attention to integrity in government and improvement of the judicial system."

Nevertheless, BZK saw the delayed implementation of legislation and of plans regarding the government apparatus as a big risk. "It takes much manpower to build a new government organisation and execute all tasks and responsibilities that St. Maarten has to carry out as a country. Because a lot has to be built in St. Maarten, it will not be easy to find sufficient people to fill the positions and to adequately execute all tasks."

According to BZK, the transfer

of tasks from the Netherlands Antilles to St. Maarten will suffer further delay if the building of the government organisation and the personnel formation takes more time than anticipated. BZK observed that civil servants should have received a proposal about their future placement prior to April 2009. This will now take place in October. "This has consequences for the planning to transfer tasks to St. Maarten."

Political developments

BZK further noted that recent political developments in St. Maarten had diverted attention from the enormous amount of work that yet has to be done so the island can execute the various tasks as country in the Dutch Kingdom.

The May referendum in Curaçao also diverted attention from the preparations on that island. As a result, here too the preparation to take over tasks, people and means of the country the Netherlands Antilles has been delayed.

The Netherlands Antilles, Curaçao and St. Maarten focused too much on the target date of January 2010 and this has resulted in insufficient attention for the essential conditions of a proper transfer of tasks, personnel and means. There is still a lot of work to be done in the dismantling process, especially in the area of personnel, it was stated in the report.

The progress report also mentioned Aruba, which must cooperate to realise new relations in the Kingdom. The relation with Aruba has deteriorated. Keeping Aruba involved is essential to realise various consensus laws and an amendment to the Charter. Aruba will deem the September 25 elections more important than cooperating with the constitutional process. □

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Casino chips with old Aruba Marriott Sail Boat Logo can be cashed out at the Casino until July 1, 2009. No chip exchange is possible after July 1, 2009.

Island commemorates 25th Curaçao Flag Day

~Curaçao Association hosting weekend of events~



PHILIPSBUR—Thursday, July 2nd, marks 25 years' celebration of Curaçao's Flag Day. Therefore, the local Curaçao Association Tula International has organized a weekend full of events. Festivities kicked off with a church service at the Risen Christ Church in South Reward which featured the melodic voices of the Curaçao Association Choir. Following the service, a cocktail party was held at Air Lekkerbek. The Mariachi Group Mil Amores gave a special presentation. The group has been flown into the island, where they gave various presentations throughout St. Maarten. This seven-member group play traditional Mexican

music called "Ranchetta," which is characterized by trumpets and violins. The group also performed at a happy hour at Taloula Mango's on the Great Bay which formed part of the Flag Day celebrations. The group went on to perform at Jump Up Casino while the association hosted a dance party at Air Lekkerbek. Featured band of the night was the Control Band. The Mariachi Group will again provide entertainment on Saturday, July 4, this time at Holland House during its evening happy hour. A grand family fun day will be held at the Emilio Wilson Park on Sunday, July 5 closing off the Flag Day celebrations.



There will be activities for youngsters and the elderly alike. Bouncing castles will be erected, performances by the Mariachi Group will again be a treat and a domino "knock-out" will be conducted, featuring domino groups Public Warriors, Presidente and Pioneers. Come with your tummies empty because all sorts of Curaçao dishes will be up for tasting from well known pastechi and empana to fish and funchi, kolo staba, comcomber chiki just to name a few. The 911 Band will be on hand to provide musical entertainment. The Mariachi Group in addition are scheduled to give



performances on Sunday at Mark's Place at Oyster Bay from and Coliseum Casino. Curaçao Association Tula International has been

organizing Curaçao Flag Day celebrations locally since 1990. Next year will be the 20th celebration and intends to be a memorable one. □

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Sunset Wedding on Bucuti's "Dream Beach of the World"



EAGLE BEACH - Bucuti Beach Resort's renown 'Dream Beach of the World' was the backdrop for the intimate beach wedding ceremony of Emily and David Bannister from Massachusetts. The couple was blessed by Reverend Robert Gibson as they stood under an arch adorned with flowing linens with the backdrop of a fiery red sunset

over the turquoise sea.

Emily and David were officially married at our historical Civil House earlier that afternoon and exchanged wedding vows at sunset on Bucuti's 14 acre powder white beach with an audience of 11 family and friends who flew in for the event.

David, a produce buyer, and Emily, a Bank Marketing associate, originally met at

their work place a while back and on February 12, 2008, David surprised Emily when she returned home with her favorite meal (chicken parmesan, prepared himself), Champagne, and the ring. Immediately following their engagement, the couple travelled to Aruba to check out possible wedding venues. "The Bucuti looked like a



beautiful wedding location and we had heard so many positive remarks about it from friends back home" shared the couple. When asked about the aspects of Aruba that Emily and David liked best, they responded: "the gorgeous sunset and the ocean waves crashing behind us. Nashette (our wedding planner), was so wonderful to work with and really made

the planning process easy for us. We pretty much just had to show up and she took care of the rest. The service at the Bucuti was exceptional and the staff was very friendly. It was everything we hoped it would be and more". Mr. and Mrs. Bannister celebrated their honeymoon in one of Bucuti's award winning Tara Beach Suites. ☐

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“Triple Happy Hour” tonight at the WESTIN



Continued from Front Page

Many local happy hour regulars have departed from their traditional Friday evening haunts to enjoy a fresh and new environ in the contemporary setting along with many Westin guests who turned out for the fun event and a chance to drink and dance with the locals.

The event is a regular happening that takes place



on the first Friday of every month. See you there tonight! ☐
~ Photos by Julia Renfro ~



Boda en el paraíso

Juan y Adriana: Una historia de amor por siempre hecha realidad en Aruba



Todo comenzó en Enero de 2007, Juan es Gerente de Servicio de un concesionario Ford en Venezuela que es donde Adriana compró su carro.

Un día Adriana llevo a hacerle el mantenimiento y por una falla que no se pudo detectar al siguiente día de retirar el carro del concesionario, tuvo que regresarlo durante esa semana varias veces a que detectaran cual era el problema.

Adriana hablaba directamente con el mecánico y el asesor de servicio porque le daba pena hablarle a Juan porque cada vez que lo veía estaba muy serio y Adriana pensaba “será

que siempre esta molesto”?

Aun así el mecánico insistió varias veces que hablara con Juan sobre el problema del carro pero de verdad cada vez que le pasaba por un lado no le salían las palabras a Adriana. A la final Adriana dejó el carro reparando esa semana y el sábado llamaron para que fuera a retirarlo, después de hablar con el asesor de servicio Adriana se sentó en la sala de espera a esperar que la llamaran para llevarse su carro.

En ese momento entro Juan a la sala muy serio y se sentó al frente de Adriana y se le quedó mirando. Adriana se quedó fría porque pensaba que Juan

le traía malas noticias respecto al carro. Se fijaron sus miradas por unos segundos y luego Juan le dijo a Adriana “Hola como estas”? Y Juan sonrió y Adriana que nunca lo vio sonreír le dice “No sabías que te reías” ... “Tienes una linda sonrisa” .. Allí iniciaron su conversación sobre la vida de cada uno, sobre que hacían y justo ese día empezaron a salir, él la acompañó hasta su casa, y en los días siguientes salieron juntos a almorzar, al cine, y luego él comenzó a visitar a la casa de Adriana. Un 9 de marzo de 2007 se hicieron novios y su relación fue creciendo, viajaron mucho y en un viaje de vacaciones que hicieron a Aruba se quedaron enamorados de la isla, y dijeron que el día que decidieran

casarse lo harían allí a la orilla de alguna playa, y tomaron la decisión de casarse en enero de este año. Pues como prometieron se casaron en Aruba! El día 5 de junio fue el matrimonio civil en Venezuela y una semana después viajaron a Aruba para casarse el 13 de junio en la hermosa playa del Hotel Manchebo. Se les cumplió su sueño!!!

Todo estuvo espectacular... la ceremonia estuvo bellísima, hubo una puesta de sol increíble y los preparativos y organización por parte de la Sra. Lissy Lampe no tiene comparación!!! Estuvo demasiado

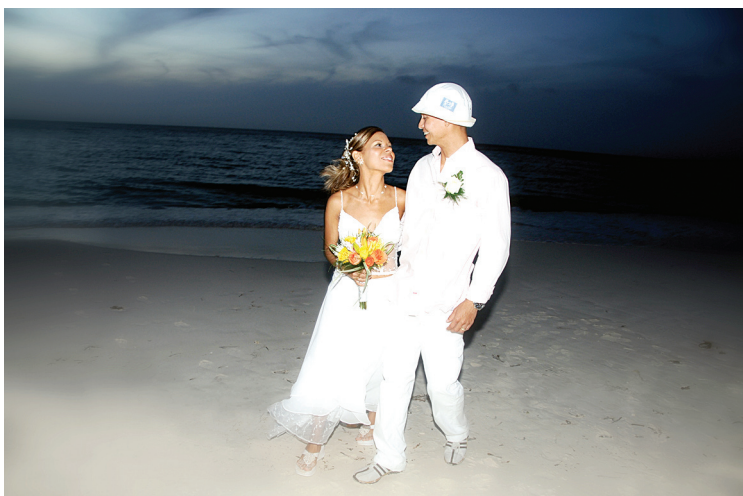
excelente. La cena en el Pavillion del Hotel estuvo increíble, todo estaba muy sabroso, desde las ensaladas hasta el postre y la torta de bodas tenía unos caracoles bellísimos y quedó riquísima!!! Tanto así que no quedó ni un pedazo para traer a Venezuela!!!. Luego el grupo de casi 40 se fueron de rumba en el kukoo kunuku, fue muy divertido y los invitados quedaron emocionados. Fueron a Garufas y luego a Mambo Jambo donde todos bailaron bastante y lo pasaron buenísimo. La familia y los amigos que viajaron desde Venezuela para estar en Aruba con ellos para la boda se



llevaron unos recuerdos espectaculares, quedaron muy contentos y agradecidos por esos momentos tan lindos y divertidos que pasaron, y todos quieren regresar a Aruba!!! Agradecemos mucho a la Sra. Lissy Lampe por hacer de esta boda un momento inolvidable!!!, gracias al Sr. Geronimo Blanco y a todo el personal del Hotel Manchebo por el excelente servicio y atención que recibimos en la boda y durante la fiesta. Gracias al florista de Elsa's Flowershop por nuestro bouquet tan bello.

Gracias a Phillip por nuestra torta espectacular y deliciosa. Gracias a la Sra. Marieta por el maquillaje y el peinado tan bello. Gracias a Angela por las fotos tan lindas y tanta atención y gracias al personal del Hotel Brickell Bay Beach y Amsterdam Manor, en especial a la Sra. Janet, Mayra y a todas las chicas de recepción por estar siempre atentos con nosotros y por la excelente atención prestada a nuestros invitados. □

*Photos by Angela Munzenhofer
Bella Aruba Photography*



Dutch to take over tasks of BES islands late 2009

THE HAGUE--The Netherlands is planning to take over about half of the tasks of the Netherlands Antilles for the BES islands Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba before December 2009 if conditions in the area of personnel, finances and legal rights have been met. The implementation of the new status as public entities of the Netherlands will take place in phases.

Dutch State Secretary of Home Affairs and Kingdom Relations Ank Bijleveld-Schouten stated in a progress report sent to the Second Chamber on Tuesday that the Dutch Government was not being distracted by political developments on the islands and that it continued intensive discussions with the Netherlands Antilles about a phased transfer of tasks for the three islands.

The Netherlands will take over a number of tasks, but the authority will largely remain with the Netherlands Antilles until the actual transition date, when the three islands become part of the Dutch Constellation as so-called public entities. However, the Netherlands will assume the authority of a limited number of tasks ahead of the date of transfer.

The progress report cited "political (in)stability" as the biggest risk to the process to transfer Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba. "Developments in Bonaire with a third Executive Council in five months and the discord in St. Eustatius among members of the Executive Council are a reason for concern."

In the progress report, Bijleveld-Schouten provided an overview of the steps that are being taken or will be taken shortly to facilitate the transfer of Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba. US dollar The definite scenario for the introduction of the US dollar is beginning to take shape with preparations starting late 2009. From the moment of transfer to the new constitutional structure, the US dollar will become the legal tender.

Dutch Ministries have become active on the three islands and are appointing or have appointed quartermasters. The Dutch Ministry of Education,

Culture and Science OCW is setting up a trajectory to eliminate the backlog in education. Books have been ordered for the three secondary schools and in Saba the five school buses are being replaced. School boards will be assisted and preparations started to improve the housing and infrastructure at schools.

Asbestos

The Ministry of Public Housing, Physical Planning and Environment VROM has made an inventory of asbestos in schools and government buildings and will draw up a plan of action shortly to handle this problem. An inventory will also be made of asbestos victims. VROM has analysed the external safety and permit system for oil terminals and other facilities, and has analysed the drinking water facilities on the three islands. Local civil servants will be coached in the area of enforcement of environmental regulations, a waste product plan has been drafted and a preventive soil policy is being worked on. A public information campaign regarding asbestos, waste, energy and emissions is being prepared. Zoning plans will be drafted shortly, with the first one planned for Bonaire. VROM will appoint two quartermasters and an advisor/inspector this summer.

Airports

The Ministry of Transport and Water Management V&W is working on the construction of a waste water treatment plan and sewers in Bonaire. Safety at the airports of the three islands is being analysed, with the first priority being the renovation of the runway in Bonaire.

The Ministry of Public Health, Wellbeing and Sports VWS is executing the most urgent projects where it comes to public health. Focus is on the construction and renovation of hospitals and homes for the elderly on the three islands.

A total of 26 projects have been prepared, ranging from new ambulances to the introduction of a general health scheme for all citizens whereby people

will be medically insured as of 2011 based on a general package that is more or less equal to the Dutch basic package.

Ambulances

Each island will receive two modern fully-equipped ambulances. Maintenance of the ambulances and training of ambulance personnel will be arranged. In Saba and St. Eustatius the existing hospitals will be privatised, with existing facilities being merged with new multifunctional care centres with new equipment. Personnel will be trained and additional staff will be hired. Bonaire's House of Detention has been renovated. Personnel of the Judicial Institutions Service DJI are assisting

on a structural basis. An Immigration and Naturalisation quartermaster was appointed as of June 1.

The Ministry of Finance is arranging training programmes for the islands' financial management, while the Dutch Tax Department is providing technical assistance and has opened tax offices on the three islands.

Social Security

The Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour SZW has sent a quartermaster to Bonaire and is contemplating appointing a second quartermaster to Saba and St. Eustatius. SZW Minister Piet Hein Donner will discuss the social security system and the amount of the minimum wage with the local

governments in September.

The Ministry of Economic Affairs will appoint a quartermaster shortly. The Ministry of Home Affairs and Kingdom Relations BZK is preparing the realisation of a Police Force for Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba. With the assistance of the Dutch fire service Haaglanden, BZK is working on improving the fire brigades on the three islands.

A multifunctional joint emergency call centre where citizens can reach police, fire department and ambulance should be operational early 2010. The Regional Service Centres (RSCs) will be further equipped in the course of this year. Quartermasters of the different ministries are stationed at the RSCs. □

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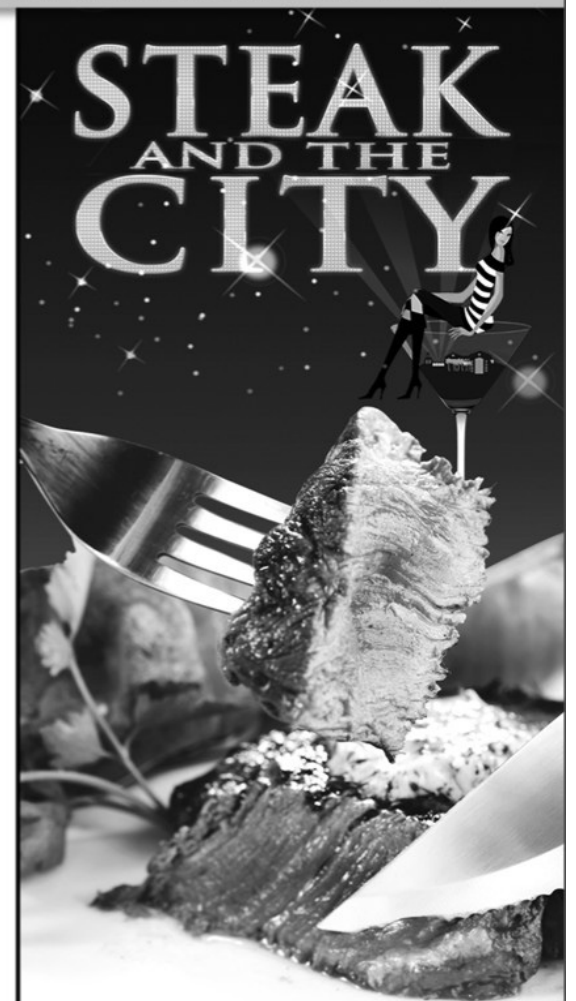
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Jobless data sends stocks reeling; Dow loses 223



In this June 30, 2009 photo, an unemployed worker, left, talks with an Employment Guide staffer at a job fair in San Jose, Calif. Stock futures fell ahead of the June unemployment report set for release before the market opens Thursday, July 2. Economists are expecting an increase.

(AP Photo/Paul Sakuma)

By **STEPHEN BERNARD** and **IEVA M. AUGSTUMS**,
AP Business Writers

NEW YORK — A dour report on job losses in June sent stocks sharply lower Thursday. Major stock indexes fell more than 2.6 percent after the government said the U.S. unemployment rate hit a 26-year high. The Dow Jones industrials closed at their lowest level in six weeks. Trading on the New York Stock Exchange was extended until 4:15 p.m. Eastern time

in order to execute customer orders impacted by system irregularities, an NYSE spokeswoman said.

As investors sold off stocks amid fresh concerns about the economy, they moved into the safety of bonds, pushing Treasury yields lower.

Recession-weary employers in the U.S. slashed 467,000 jobs in June, the Labor Department reported, far worse than the 363,000 that economists expected and a grim signal that the path to recovery will

be bumpy. The jobless rate rose to 9.5 percent from 9.4 percent in May.

The report — one of the most closely watched economic indicators — disappointed investors who had become encouraged by positive signs recently that key areas of the economy including housing and manufacturing were showing modest signs of improvement.

The stock market rallied furiously this spring off of 12-year lows beginning in early March on hopes for a recovery, but the upward momentum stalled in mid-June as doubts began to emerge about whether the economy had really found a bottom. The June jobs report was the latest blow to the market's confidence.

"There's more and more evidence mounting against this rally continuing," said Doug De Groote, a managing director at United Wealth Management. Consumers are likely to lead the nation out of the ongoing recession, but that won't happen if more people are losing their jobs, he said. Shares of consumer products companies were among the hardest hit Thursday.

The Dow Jones industrials lost 223.32, or 2.6 percent, to 8,280.74, the lowest close since May 22. It was the average's worst day since April 20.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 26.91, or 2.9 percent, to 896.42 and the Nasdaq composite index fell 49.20, or 2.7 percent, to 1,796.52.

The market's recent rally pushed stock prices back to reasonable levels after they were severely undervalued, said Tim Courtney, chief investment officer at Burns Advisory Group.

With stocks prices back in more normal pricing ranges, "they look less cheap, so bad news like this really starts to sway prices," Courtney said of the unemployment report.

Overseas markets also fell after a report showed unemployment in Europe rose to a 10-year high in May.

"This is part of the market recovery," said Roy Williams, CEO of Prestige Wealth Management. "You're going to get bad news." Williams predicted the unemployment rate is likely to reach 11 percent. As stock prices fell across the board, other signs of investor unease emerged. Treasury prices rose, driving the yield on the 10-year note down to 3.50 percent from 3.54 percent late Wednesday. Meanwhile a gauge of volatility in the stock market, the Chicago Board Options Exchange Volatility Index, or VIX, rose 1.66, or 6.3 percent, to 27.88 Thursday afternoon.

Declining issues outnumbered advancers by about 5 to 1 on the New York Stock Exchange.

Volume came to a relatively low 733.6 million shares ahead of the holiday weekend, compared with 951.1 million shares traded at the same point Wednesday. Markets will be closed Friday in observance of the Independence Day holiday.

Light volume can lead to more volatile swings in trading.

An upbeat report about May factory orders was not enough to boost traders' confidence amid the weak employment numbers. The Commerce Department said total orders rose 1.2 percent in May, better than the 0.8 percent increase that economists had expected. Markets kicked off the third quarter on Wednesday with gains after getting some reassuring data on manufacturing and housing. Traders were encouraged by a report showing more stable manufacturing activity and another indicating the fourth straight monthly rise in pending home sales.

The dollar rose against most other major currencies, while gold prices fell.

The Russell 2000 index of smaller companies fell 19.61, or 3.8 percent, to 497.85.

Overseas, Japan's Nikkei stock average fell 0.6 percent. Britain's FTSE 100 fell 2.5 percent, Germany's DAX index declined 3.8 percent, and France's CAC-40 fell 3.1 percent. □



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Fannie, Freddie ease terms for mortgage refinance

By Patrick Rucker

WASHINGTON (Reuters) – The Obama administration on Wednesday expanded its foreclosure prevention efforts to help a greater number of underwater homeowners refinance their mortgages. Under the widened program, mortgage finance companies Fannie Mae (FNM.N) and Freddie Mac (FRE.N) will refinance up to 125 percent of a home's value, lifting the current 105 percent loan-to-value cap.

“By expanding refinance eligibility, we can bring relief to more struggling homeowners more quickly,” Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner said in a statement. The collapse in housing prices has caused more and more homeowners to be “underwater,” with the money they owe on their mortgage outstripping the value of their home.

Home values in many markets have sunk by 18 percent in the last 12 months, according to Standard & Poor's/Case Shiller home price index. The decline in prices has pushed an increasing number of homeowners underwater. The revamped refinance program expands a housing rescue plan first outlined by the Treasury Department

in February that was meant to lower the costs of homeownership for borrowers who are making timely payments.

Before a five-year housing boom ended in 2006, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac would finance no more than 80 percent of a home's value. Since the companies were effectively nationalized in September, officials have pushed the firms to cover mortgages with higher loan-to-value ratios.

Rates on 30-year mortgages lingered at record-lows in April and May as the Federal Reserve started to fulfill its promise to buy \$1.45 trillion in mortgage-related debt.

However, those rates began to climb as investors began to sense the U.S. economy recession was easing and demand for loan refinancings has tumbled. The higher loan-to-value terms might bring some back to the table, though.

“There will be a lot of people who tried to refinance who couldn't that now will come back,” said Bob Moulton, president of Americana Home Mortgage Group in Manhasset, New York.

In a typical mortgage refinancing, a borrower has built a large amount of home

equity or offers a lender cash to secure a lower interest rate.

In a related move announced on Wednesday, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac will encourage borrowers to drop their 30-year loan in favor of a mortgage that matures faster. The two companies will reduce the processing fee for borrowers who opt for a 25-year mortgage, for instance.

“The reduction is intended



The headquarters of mortgage lender Fannie Mae is shown in Washington September 8, 2008.

REUTERS/Jason Reed

to incent borrowers to select shorter terms and build positive equity in their homes sooner than with a typical 30-year mortgage,” Fannie Mae said in a statement.

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Can Johnny Depp Take Out Transformers?



Joal Ryan
Los Angeles (E! Online) — A would-be Oscar vehicle doesn't go up against a giant-robot movie and live to tell about it. Or does it...? Johnny Depp's *Public Enemies*, the period gangster drama with Oscar aspirations

that opens Wednesday, was expected to acquit itself OK in a box office battle with *Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen*. Which is not the same as saying it's going to topple the Michael Bay behemoth. Chad Hartigan, a box office analyst for Exhibitor

Relations, is calling for *Public Enemies* to gross in the high \$20 millions to low \$30 millions, and finish its first weekend in third place, behind *Revenge of the Fallen* and *Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs*, another giant popcorn picture, likewise opening Wednesday. The projected gross would mark a career best for director Michael Mann (*Collateral*), a bigger-than-average debut for a non-Pirates of the Caribbean Depp movie—and a turnaround for a year that's been especially unkind to grown-up movies in which the grown-ups don't fly. But it would not be near enough to best *Revenge of the Fallen*, which could plunge 60 percent from last weekend—and still collect another \$43 million or so. In the end, the business of taking out giant robots is probably best left to wizards. And, yes, that's a hint that *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* is nigh. □



FILE - In this 1950 file photo, actor Karl Malden is shown. Malden, a former steelworker who won an Oscar for his role as Mitch in the 1951 classic 'A Streetcar Named Desire,' died Wednesday, July 1, 2009. He was 97.

(AP Photo, file)

By BETH HARRIS,
Associated Press Writer
LOS ANGELES — Karl Malden, the Academy Award-winning actor whose intelligent characterizations on stage, screen and television made him a star despite his plain looks, died Wednesday, his family said. He was 97. Malden died of natural causes surrounded by his family at his Brentwood home, they told the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences. He served as the academy's president from 1989-92.

Oscar-winning actor Karl Malden dead at 97

"Karl lived a rich, full life," Academy president Sid Ganis said. "He has the greatest and most loving family; a career that has spanned the spectrum of the arts from theater to film and television, to some very famous commercial work." While he tackled a variety of characters over the years, he was often seen in working-class garb or military uniform. His authenticity in grittier roles came naturally: He was the son of a Czech mother and a Serbian father, and worked for a time in the steel mills of Gary, Ind., after dropping out of college. Malden said he got his celebrated bulbous nose when he broke it a couple of times playing basketball or football, joking that he was "the only actor in Hollywood whose nose qualifies him for handicapped parking." He liked to say he had "an open-hearth face." Malden won a supporting actor Oscar in 1951 for his role as Blanche DuBois' naive suitor Mitch in "A Streetcar

Named Desire" — a role he also played on Broadway. He was nominated again as best supporting actor in 1954 for his performance as Father Corrigan, a fearless, friend-of-the-workingman priest in "On the Waterfront." In both movies, he costarred with Marlon Brando. "When you worked with him, he was the character," said Eva Marie Saint, who garnered a supporting actress Oscar for her role in "Waterfront." "He was the consummate actor and he loved acting. He was dear and smart. Whatever he did he enjoyed life." Among his other memorable roles were: "Birdman of Alcatraz" opposite Burt Lancaster; "I Confess" with Montgomery Clift; "How the West Was Won;" and "The Cincinnati Kid" opposite Steve McQueen and Edward G. Robinson. His more than 50 credits included "Patton," in which he played Gen. Omar Bradley, "Pollyanna," "Fear Strikes Out," □

"Transformers" looks unstoppable at box office

By Carl DiOrio

LOS ANGELES (Hollywood Reporter) — The 'bots are still on the trot.

The mega-successful bow last week by Paramount's action sequel "Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen" has so transformed the competitive box-office landscape, it's hard to see either of two rival movies opening at No. 1 this weekend.

Just a few weeks ago, 20th Century Fox's 3-D animated three-quel "Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs" seemed to have a shot at debuting atop the Fourth of July weekend rankings. But despite continued prospects of a healthy bow, it's highly unlikely that "Dawn" will capture session bragging rights.

Like Universal's Johnny Depp-starring "Public Enemies," "Dawn" entered wide release Wednesday. But its real showdown will come this weekend. With the Independence Day holiday falling on Saturday, box-office rankings will be based on a three-day span.

Comparing "Dawn of the Dinosaurs" to its 800-pound holdover rival on that basis, the Fox family film should open in the \$45 million-\$50 million range, while Paramount's Michael Bay-directed blockbuster could get enough of a boost from the box-office-friendly holiday to keep its sophomore-session drop to a modest 50 percent. That would give it a Friday-Sunday tally of \$55 million or more this session.

Playing in 3,319 locations, "Enemies" looks likely to ring up \$25 million over the weekend and perhaps \$40 million for its first five days. "Dawn" is set for a record 1,606 3-D auditoriums, with a total of 3,993 opening playdates and 4,093 engagements starting Friday; its five-day projection hovers at \$60 million-\$65 million.

The midweek opening for both pictures was designed to stimulate word-of-mouth while maximizing box-office grosses during a week when most students are off from school. But the "Transformers" sequel could take its biggest bite out of the new films on Wednesday and Thursday, as its marketplace momentum remains strong.

Happily for the new releases and holdovers alike, the Fourth of July session is generally one of the year's more lucrative frames. So a rising tide of holiday business should lift all box-office boats once the weekend arrives -- provided the battling 'bots don't hugely exceed expectations again.

One unknown is whether a significant number of theater operators will keep their "Transformers" moneymaker on more screens and in bigger auditoriums during its second weekend than originally planned. In any event, distribution executives at Fox and Universal expressed calm resolve in the face of the looming clash with the behemoth holdover. "I think we're as well positioned as any picture can be in this marketplace," Fox distribution chief Bruce Snyder said. "People are ready for a new family movie."

The R-rated "Enemies" ought to hold its own by appealing to a distinctly older audience, Universal distribution president Nikki Rocco said. Prerelease interest appears solid. "The tracking looks good," Rocco said. "I'm feeling really good about that."

Among the weekend's notable expansions, Sony Pictures Classics plans to broaden Woody Allen's "Whatever Works," starring Larry David, to more than 300 screens from 35. □

Jermaine Jackson Talks Michael: "I Wish It Was Me"

Gina Serpe

Los Angeles (E! Online) — Exactly one week after Michael Jackson's death, brother Jermaine Jackson became the first member of the still-mourning musical family to sit down for an in-depth interview about the late icon, speaking to the Today show this morning from the grounds of Neverland Ranch.

Describing himself as Michael's "backbone," an emotional and frequently tearful Jermaine paid tribute to his little brother, and revealed what his surprisingly preferred outcome to last week's tragedy would have been.

"He went too soon, he went too soon," he told Matt Lauer. "I don't know how people are gonna take this, but I wish it was me."

"I've always felt that I was his backbone. Someone to be there for him. I was there and he was sort of like Moses. The things he couldn't say, I would say them. During the trials and during everything, I knew he was 1,000 percent innocent. I knew. We all knew."

"Michael is a gift from Allah. And he has taken him back." As for how Jermaine discovered the tragic news in the first place, he said he received a call from a friend, but, disbelieving that anything could have happened to his brother, phoned his mother, Katherine, for clarification. It was then he found out Michael had been declared dead.

"To hear my mother say Michael's dead...to feel and

hear the tone in her voice to say her child is dead, is nothing that anyone can ever imagine," he said, adding that he rushed across town and could already see the helicopters circling over the hospital before his arrival.

After attempting to console his mother, Jermaine said a personal goodbye to his brother.

"I wanted to see Michael. I wanted to see my brother. Seeing him there lifeless and breathless was very emotional for me, but I held myself together because I know that he's very much alive, his spirit is. That was just a shell."

"I kissed him on his forehead, I hugged him and touched him and I said, 'Michael, I'll never leave you.' I felt really, really empty."

As for how his family is holding up, Jermaine said that the devastation has taken a toll, but they're doing their best to stay strong.

"It's tough. My family is being strong. We've always been a family and we're just holding together. But it's tough. It's very tough."

"We lost our brother, our hero. The world is mourning, we're mourning, the fans are mourning. It's unreal. It's unbelievable."

As for Jackson's three children, Prince Michael, Paris-Michael and the affectionately nicknamed Blanket, Jermaine said they're "fine now" and called them "very special" kids.

He confirmed that the trio saw

Michael's body at the hospital at the suggestion of a therapist, a move Jermaine was initially opposed to.

"I know it's tough, but I think it was the best thing to do. At first I was against it, but what do you say if you don't show them?"

The children are currently spending time with their cousins, and Jermaine took time out to praise Michael's decision, revealed in his recently filed will, to have their mother take over guardianship of the trio.

"I thought it was a great will, because the children are fine—my mother's the right person to be there."

"She's capable, she's up to it, because she's always with all the grandchildren all the time. She loves the laughter and the crying and all the excitement. She'll have someone with her to make sure they're doing the right things."

While a Neverland burial has already been discounted as a viable option, Jermaine says it's still his top choice for his brother's interment.

"This is his home. He created this, why wouldn't he be here?"

I feel his presence, it's like he's on tour somewhere or he's out somewhere and it would always feel like that and I love that. He built this place with love and you can see it and feel it.

"Look at this place...This is his creation."

Jermaine also took time out to address, albeit not specifically,



the unending speculation and rumors that have surfaced in regard to Michael's use and potential abuse of prescription medications.

"For people to come forth and say things that they don't have the facts to is very damaging to the family, to me, to us, because we don't know."

And while he admitted he couldn't say without a doubt that medication played no part in Michael's death, he did say that seeing an overflow of prescriptions on his still-pending toxicology report would be a surprise.

"I would be hurt. Michael has always been a person who has been against anything like that," he said, before adding, "In this business, the pressures and things that you go through, you never know what one turns to."

Still, Jermaine has no doubt that the enormous amount of pressure Michael was put under in the last decade or so of his life took a toll on his health.

"Michael was always concerned about everybody. And to have that weight on your shoulders and to have that kind of pressure...I don't know."

"The world didn't appreciate him. The world loved him, but certain people, certain industries didn't appreciate him."

"He became a victim of his own success. It was hard for him. The things that happened during his life and then the

pressure, the pressure. He felt tremendous pressure. You work so hard to do good and it's perceived a different way."

Addressing Michael's 50-show London comeback and questions of whether the King of Pop was ever up to the challenge, Jermaine said his brother would have had no problem pulling it off.

"Fifty shows is a lot of shows, but I do believe and I know Michael's very strong. Mentally and physically. He's a dancer, he never stopped dancing. He was strong, he was ready. I think it had a lot to do with the mental tear and just the stress."

Finally, when asked about the legacy his iconic brother would leave behind, Jermaine unsurprisingly opted not to wax on about Michael's undisputed musical genius, but rather paid tribute to the less public side of the star.

"The legacy of Michael Jackson is Michael being a wonderful person, a wonderful father, a caring person, a humanitarian, a person who wanted good for everyone, a person who would give his last whatever just to make someone happy."

"What he's done for the world, not just the financial, but the happiness of people...What kind of price can you put on that? How do you value that? The joy...to make someone happy, to make someone smile through your actions, through what you're doing, there's no price for that." □



President Barack Obama gestures during his interview with The Associated Press, Thursday, July 2, 2009, in the West Wing of the White House in Washington.

(AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)

Obama cites Michael Jackson as entertainment icon

By JENNIFER LOVEN,

AP White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama called Michael Jackson a brilliant performer whose talents were paired with a tragic personal life.

"I'm glad to see that he is being remembered primarily for the great joy that he brought to a lot of people through his extraordinary gifts as an entertainer," Obama said in an AP interview Thursday.

Obama said he didn't see any controversy in the fact that he did not issue a formal public statement upon Jackson's death, and said he was unaware of any dissatisfaction in the black community with his response.

"I know a lot of people in the black community and I haven't heard that," Obama said.

The president said he grew up on Jackson's music and "I still have all his stuff on my iPod." □

A new service introduced Segafredo Café now offers lunch delivery

SOUTH BEACH CENTRE – Segafredo Café at the South Beach Centre just announced that it is offering free lunch delivery of sandwiches and drinks midday.

Just submit your order prior to 11 a.m., fax it or call in, and your baguette, croissant or ciabatta sandwiches will arrive at your doorstep escorted by a choice of salads, tosti, muffins, coffees to go and drinks to go. Segafredo Café at the South Beach Centre offers more than just delicious coffee. It serves dinner, drinks, frozen cocktails, beer, munchies, snacks, lunch and naturally, coffee anytime, and not just any old brew.

From the cultivation of the coffee plants and the selection of the berries in the Segafredo Zanetti plantations in Brazil and Costa Rica, to the art blending and roasting in the company's contemporary headquarters, the process guarantees high-quality results, producing the most famous and appreciated Italian coffee worldwide.

And the central location and friendly décor of the Segafredo Café in the South Beach Centre, makes it perfect as a place for friends!

The menu says manager Sartini Kousmaker offers Coffee, Hot and Iced Coffee Drinks, Coffee Specialties, Tea, Fruit Smoothies, Champagne Cocktails, Fine Wines by the Glass, Imported Beers, Premium Martinis, Tropical Cocktails & Frozen

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Patrons may order breakfast all day, from Croissant Sandwiches to Fresh Fruit Salads, Omelets, Brioches and Muffins to Classic Toasts, and Paninis.

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Pizza, and by-now-famous Lasagna.

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57a	7946	F2B	Cancelled
55a	7280	C4	On Time
29a	6374	B22	Computer Failure
41p	8851	C16	On Time
49a	7749	F11D	Computer Failure
01p	6494	F11D	On Time
43a	7698	F7B	Closed
38p	7876	F2D	On Time
45a	6360	B9	Computer Failure
43a	343	B11	Boarding
36a	7861	F11C	On Time
15a	7871	F1C	Closed
09a	4027	F12B	Aircraft Delayed
48a	7832	C1	On Time
54a	7825	F12B	On Time
55a	7836	B22A	Closed
15a	7182	F1A	On Time

A departure board at the United Airlines terminal in Chicago's O'Hare International Airport displays computer failure notices Thursday, July 2, 2009, after a computer problem temporarily disrupted United Airlines flights, causing long delays and lines for travelers headed out for the Fourth of July holiday weekend.

Associated Press

United computer problems cleared up at O'Hare

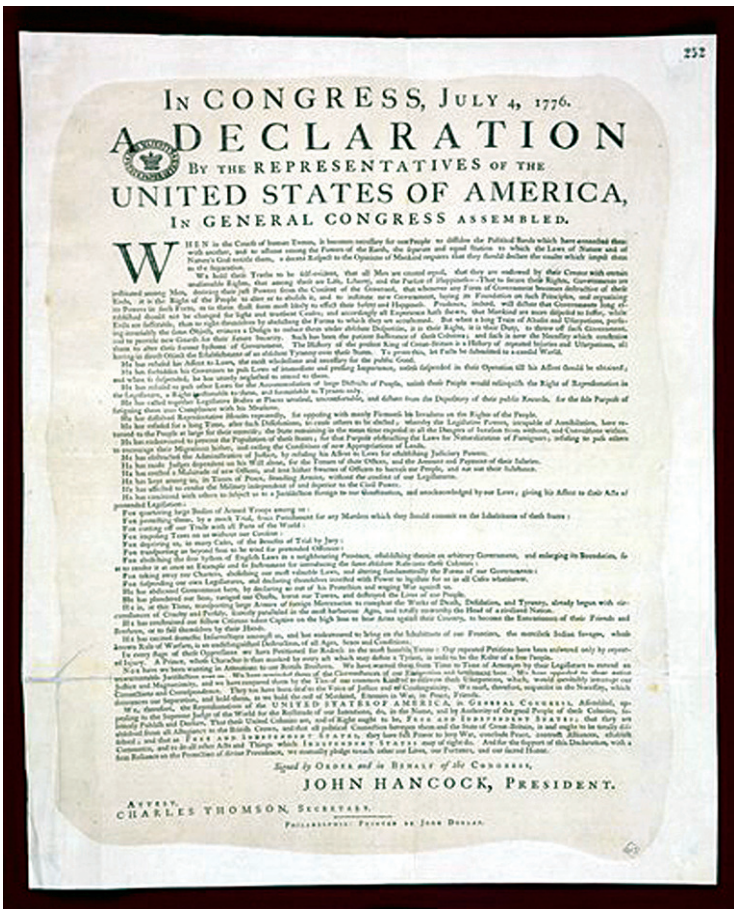
RUPA SHENOY

Associated Press Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — A computer problem temporarily disrupted United Airlines flights at O'Hare International Airport on Thursday, causing long delays and lines for travelers headed out for the Fourth of July holiday weekend.

The outage affected all of United's computers at the airport and also caused about 100 flights to be canceled as of Thursday afternoon, said airline spokeswoman Robin Urbanski. The problem with the check-in computers ran from 3 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. local time, she said. At one point, the airline instituted a "ground stop," keeping United flights bound for O'Hare grounded if they hadn't taken off yet, said Federal Aviation Administration spokeswoman Elizabeth Isham Cory.

She said the glitch affected the boarding pass system and the computers that tell pilots the number of passengers on board and weight of the plane, which affect how much fuel an aircraft can carry. □



This undated image released by Britain's National Archives Thursday, July 2, 2009, shows a copy of the United States Declaration of Independence, which has been discovered at the National Archives in Kew, England.

Associated Press

Rare copy of Declaration of Independence found

GREGORY KATZ

Associated Press Writer

LONDON (AP) — British researchers have announced the discovery of a rare original copy of America's Declaration of Independence — just in time for the Fourth of July.

Katrina McClintock, a spokeswoman at the National Archives, said Thursday that a researcher accidentally discovered the "Dunlap print," named after a printer, several months ago. The find was announced only after it could be properly catalogued. Edward Hampshire, the National Archives' specialist in colonial materials, said the find was "incredibly exciting."

"It is likely that only around 200 of these were ever printed, so uncovering a new one nearly 250 years later is extremely rare, especially one in such good condition," he said.

He said the declaration is one of the most important documents in history because it marks the birth of the United States.

The last Dunlap print to be found was sold at an auction for \$8.14 million in 2000.

National Archives officials said they weren't sure how the Declaration of Independence copy ended up there.

Archives spokeswoman Frances McDarby said it was "possible that an American coastal vessel was intercepted by the British navy and that is how the document was able to come into our possession."

The prints, known collectively as the Dunlap Broadside, were the first copies of the Declaration of Independence. They were printed by John Dunlap of Philadelphia and distributed to political and military leaders, including George Washington, and dispatched throughout the colonies to be read to the public. □

CDC: U.S. swine flu cases rise to nearly 34,000

MIKE STOBBE

AP Medical Writer

ATLANTA (AP) — The number of U.S. swine flu cases has reached nearly 34,000, and deaths have risen 34 percent in the past week to 170, federal health officials reported Thursday.

About four out of five of the swine flu deaths to date were adults aged 25 or older, although seven of the most recent deaths were children, according to the Atlanta-based Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The numbers mark an increase from the 127 deaths and nearly 28,000 confirmed and suspected swine flu cases reported last week.

CDC officials believe those cases — which sought treatment and underwent testing — are just the tip of the iceberg. They estimate more than 1 million Americans have been infected with the virus so far, though many probably had only a mild illness. Swine flu is the predominant flu type circulating currently, with ten states reporting widespread cases. The states are California, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Maine, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Virginia.

The pandemic was first discovered in California in April, but since then a total of more than 77,000 cases have been reported in more than 100 countries, according to the World Health Organization. □



N. Korea fires missiles; launch toward U.S. feared

JAE-SOON CHANG

Associated Press Writer

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea fired a barrage of short-range missiles off its east coast Thursday, a possible prelude to the launch of a long-range missile toward Hawaii over the July Fourth holiday.

Firing a ballistic missile on Independence Day would be a challenge to Washington, which has been rallying international support for enforcement of U.N. sanctions imposed against Pyongyang following a May 25 nuclear test. North Korea is banned from testing ballistic missiles under U.N. resolutions. Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary Takeo Kawamura said Thursday that a long-range missile launch this weekend was possible. "We cannot rule out the possibility," he said, citing Pyongyang's past behavior.

In 2006, North Korea launched its most advanced Taepodong 2 missile while the U.S. celebrated Independence Day, though the rocket fizzled shortly after takeoff and fell into the ocean.

Continued on Page B6

Putin has 'one foot in old ways,' Obama says



President Barack Obama gestures during his interview with The Associated Press, Thursday, July 2, 2009, in the West Wing of the White House in Washington.

Associated Press

JENNIFER LOVEN

AP White House

Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — On the eve of a trip to Moscow, President Barack Obama scolded Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin on Thursday for keeping “one foot in the old ways of doing business.” By contrast, he said Putin’s hand-picked successor as president understands that Cold War behavior is outdated.

In a White House interview with The Associated Press, the president said he will meet with both Putin and President Dmitry Medvedev on his trip, in hopes they can “move in concert in cooperating with us on some critical issues.”

Obama also said he is not reconciled to Iran obtaining a nuclear weapon within a year and did not rule out sending additional U.S. soldiers to Afghanistan.

He also expressed misgivings about his own policy on dealing with the prisoners now held at Guantanamo Bay, saying the idea of retaining at least some of the detainees, indefinitely and without trial, in different locations gives him pause. Still, he did not rule out issuing an executive order to that effect if Congress refuses to pass legislation.

Scheduled to leave next week on a trip to Russia, Italy and Ghana, Obama praised Moscow for its cooperation in attempting to persuade North Korea and Iran to abandon their nuclear development programs. The United Nations recently approved “the most robust sanction regime that we’ve ever seen with respect to North Korea,” he said.

The president said his agenda

in Russia includes talks on a new treaty to curtail long-range nuclear missiles. North Korea test-launched four short-range missiles on Thursday.

Asked why he intends to meet with Putin, Obama said the former president “still has a lot of sway, ... and I think that it’s important that even as we move forward with President Medvedev that Putin understand that the old Cold War approaches to U.S.-Russian relations is outdated; that it’s time to move forward in a different direction.”

“I think Medvedev understands that. I think Putin has one foot in the old ways of doing business and one foot in the new, and to the extent that we can provide him and the Russian people a clear sense that the U.S. is not seeking an antagonistic relationship but wants cooperation on nuclear nonproliferation, fighting terrorism, energy issues, that we’ll end up having a stronger partner overall in this process,” he said.

Obama expressed reservations about his recently announced policy that could lead to indefinite detention for some of the detainees currently at the Guantanamo Bay prison. “It gives me huge pause,” he said, to the point where he may not see it through.

“We’re going to proceed very carefully on this front, and it may turn out that after looking at all the dimensions of this, that I don’t feel comfortable with (it),” Obama said. The president has pledged to close the prison in Cuba and hopes to send most of those currently held there to other countries. Asked if he was resigned to Iran’s possession

of nuclear weapons, he said, “I’m not reconciled with that, and I don’t think the international community is reconciled with that.”

The president said a nuclear-armed Iran probably would trigger an arms race in the already volatile Middle East and said that would be “a recipe for potential disaster.” Iran says its nuclear program is intended to produce electricity, not weapons.

On Afghanistan, Obama said that he will reassess the possible need for additional U.S. troops after the Afghan national elections in August.

Asked how he defines U.S. success in Afghanistan, the president said Thursday the main U.S. goal is to keep the al-Qaida terror network from acquiring a haven from which it can train fighters and launch attacks on the United States or its allies.

He said the United States and its allies also must build up the Afghan national army and police and enable neighboring Pakistan to secure its borders against terrorist movements.

On domestic issues, the president said he had made some progress in stabilizing the economy, but he conceded too many jobs are still being lost. He said he was “deeply concerned” about unemployment and conceded that too many families are worried about “whether they will be next.” Still, he said that since he took office almost six months ago “we have successfully stabilized the financial markets,” and “started to see some stabilization on housing.”

Since Obama signed the \$780 billion economic stimulus bill in February, the economy has shed more than 2 million jobs. □

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Judge provisionally acquits mother in MySpace hoax case

LINDA DEUTSCH

AP Special Correspondent

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A federal judge on Thursday provisionally threw out the convictions of a Missouri mother for her role in a MySpace hoax directed at a 13-year-old neighbor girl who ended up committing suicide.

U.S. District Judge George Wu said he was acquitting Lori Drew of misdemeanor counts of accessing computers without authorization but stressed the ruling was provisional until he issues it in writing. Drew was convicted in November, but the judge said that if she is to be found guilty of illegally accessing computers, anyone who has ever violated the social networking site's terms of service would be guilty of a misdemeanor.

Drew's attorney Dean Steward said outside court that the U.S. attorney's office in Los Angeles should not have brought the charges in a case that originated in Missouri and was rejected by prosecutors there.

The U.S. attorney's office did not immediately comment on Wu's decision, which came after an hour of arguments.

The parents of Megan Meier, the teenager who killed herself, were in the courtroom but did not comment.

Prosecutors say Drew sought to humiliate Megan by helping create a fictitious teen boy on the social networking site and sending flirtatious messages to the girl in his name. The fake boy then dumped Megan in a message saying the world would be better without her.

She hanged herself a short

time later in October 2006.

Drew was not directly charged with causing Megan's death. Instead, prosecutors indicted her under the federal Computer Fraud and Abuse Act, which in the past has been used in hacking and trademark theft cases.

Wu acknowledged in May he was concerned that sending Drew to prison for violating a Web site's service terms might set a dangerous precedent. Wu at the time noted that millions of people either don't read service terms, as happened in Drew's case.

During the trial, prosecutors argued that Drew violated MySpace service rules by setting up the phony profile for a boy named "Josh Evans" with the help of her then-13-year-old daughter Sarah and business assistant Ashley Grills.

Prosecutors believe Drew and her daughter, who was friends with Megan, created the profile to find out if Megan was spreading rumors about Sarah. Grills testified she received a message from Megan in mid-2006, calling Drew's daughter a lesbian.

Grills, who testified under a promise of immunity, allegedly sent the final, insulting message to Megan before she killed herself. Prosecutors said Megan sent a response saying, "You are the kind of boy a girl would kill herself over."

Jurors decided Drew was not guilty of the more serious felonies of intentionally causing emotional harm while accessing computers without authorization. The jury could not reach a unanimous verdict on a felony conspiracy charge.



A camera operator covers Lori Drew as she leaves the federal courthouse in Los Angeles Thursday, July 2, 2009, after a federal judge tentatively threw out the convictions of the Missouri mother for her role in a MySpace hoax directed at a 13-year-old neighbor girl who ended up committing suicide.

Associated Press

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Senate bill fines people refusing health coverage

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Americans who refuse to buy affordable medical coverage could be hit with fines of more than \$1,000 under a health care overhaul bill unveiled Thursday by key Senate Democrats looking to fulfill President Barack Obama's top domestic priority.

The Congressional Budget Office estimated the fines will raise around \$36 billion over 10 years. Senate aides said the penalties would be modeled on the approach taken by Massachusetts, which now imposes a fine of about \$1,000 a year on individuals who refuse to get coverage. Under the federal legislation, families would pay higher penalties than individuals.



A stack of documents comprising of the health care reform bill and its amendments are seen at the seat of Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., Wednesday, June 17, 2009, on Capitol Hill in Washington, before a markup hearing of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee.

Associated Press

In a revamped health care system envisioned by lawmakers, people would be required to carry health insurance just like motorists must get auto coverage now. The government would provide subsidies for the poor and many middle-class families, but those who still refuse to sign up would face penalties.

Called "shared responsibility payments," the fines would be set at least half the cost of basic medical coverage, according to the legislation.

In 2008, employer-provided coverage averaged \$12,680 a year for a family plan, and \$4,704 for individual coverage, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation's annual survey. Senate aides, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly, said the cost of the federal plan would be lower but declined to provide specifics.

The legislation would exempt certain hardship cases from fines.

The new proposals were released as Congress neared the end of a weeklong July 4 break, with lawmakers expected to quickly take up health care legislation when they return to Washington. With deepening divisions along partisan and ideological lines, the complex legislation

faces an uncertain future.

Obama wants a bill this year that would provide coverage to the nearly 50 million Americans who lack it and reduce medical costs.

In a statement, Obama welcomed the legislation, saying it "reflects many of the principles I've laid out, such as reforms that will prohibit insurance companies from refusing coverage for people with pre-existing conditions and the concept of insurance exchanges where individuals can find affordable coverage if they lose their jobs, move or get sick."

The Senate Health Education, Labor and Pensions bill also calls for a government-run insurance option to compete with private plans as well as a \$750-per-worker annual fee on larger companies that do not offer coverage to employees.

Sens. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., and Christopher Dodd, D-Conn., said in a letter to colleagues that their revised plan would cost dramatically less than an earlier, incomplete proposal, and help show the way toward coverage for 97 percent of all Americans.

In a conference call with reporters, Dodd said the revised bill had brought "historic reform of health care" closer. He said the bill's public option will bring coverage and benefit decisions driven "not by what generates the biggest profits, but by what works best for American families."

The two senators said the Congressional Budget Office put the cost of the proposal at \$611.4 billion over 10 years, down from \$1 trillion two weeks ago.

However, the total cost of legislation will rise considerably once provisions are added to subsidize health insurance for the poor through Medicaid.

Those additions, needed to ensure coverage for nearly all U.S. residents, are being handled by a separate panel, the Senate Finance Committee. Bipartisan talks on the Finance panel aim to hold the overall price tag to \$1 trillion. □

Bill Clinton to visit Haiti as United Nations envoy

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Former U.S. President Bill Clinton is slated to make his first trip as U.N. special envoy to Haiti next week to help the storm-ravaged nation.

Clinton will begin a three-day mission Monday to ensure the world delivers on a \$335 million pledge made at a donor conference in Washington after four devastating tropical storms killed some 800 people last fall, causing some \$1 billion in damage.

While many residents are still digging out from the storms, they must also prepare for the next storm season.

In March, Clinton accompanied U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on a four-day mission to the impoverished Caribbean nation. Last month, Clinton said his goal in Haiti would be the same as when he was the top U.N. envoy promoting recovery from the massive 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami — "to leave things better than they were before the natural disasters." Clinton said he would encourage international investment by working to improve power supplies, promote clean



Former president Bill Clinton, center, smiles among the crowd after speaking at the Worcester Boys & Girls Club in Worcester, Mass., Friday, June 12, 2009. Clinton came to town for a fundraiser for U.S. Rep. James P. McGovern, D-Worcester.

Associated Press

energy, encourage donors to honor their commitments and highlight "both the pain and the promise of Haiti" and its economic opportunities.

On Tuesday, Haiti's economic future looked brighter after three international organizations canceled \$1.2 billion of its debt, nearly two-thirds of its obligations.

The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund decided to forgive Haiti's debt, and the Inter-American Development Bank finalized previously announced debt

relief. Clinton's trip comes as the U.N.'s 9,000-member peacekeeping mission faces growing tensions.

On Monday, Haitian police told the Associated Press that a protester who died after a clash with peacekeepers was killed by a bullet, and not by a rock as initially reported.

The June 18 protest was one of a several demonstrations held this year against the U.N. force, which has been stationed in Haiti since 2004 — the fifth such mission since 1993. □

Federal marshals seize Madoff penthouse, force wife to leave

LARRY NEUMEISTER

Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Federal marshals took possession of disgraced financier Bernard Madoff's \$7 million Manhattan penthouse on Thursday in a move that forced his wife to move elsewhere.

Proceeds from a sale of the property and its contents could be used to help reimburse those who lost billions of dollars investing with Madoff before he confessed to running a Ponzi scheme.

U.S. Marshal Joseph Guccione said the marshals arrived at the property at noon with a court order permitting them to take custody of the apartment and to make anyone living there move out.

Guccione said Madoff's wife Ruth had been advised in advance of the marshals' plans and was leaving the residence and surrendering

all personal property.

"She will be leaving," he said at midday. "Restitution for the victims is the government's top priority." Typically, the U.S. Marshals Service changes all locks and secures a property when it seizes a location.

By about 1 p.m., the 67-year-old Ruth Madoff had left. It was not immediately clear where she went to live.

"Ruth moved out voluntarily pursuant to the prior agreements we reached with the government," said her lawyer, Peter Chavkin.

The 71-year-old Madoff was sentenced Monday to 150 years in prison. He pleaded guilty in March to charges that his investment advisory business was a multibillion-dollar Ponzi scheme that wiped out thousands of investors and ruined charities.

Authorities said Madoff had carried out the fraud

for at least two decades before confessing to his sons in December that his investment business was a fraud and that he had lost as much as \$50 billion.

Last week, Ruth Madoff agreed to give up all of her possessions in return for a promise that federal prosecutors would not pursue \$2.5 million not tied to the fraud.

The money, though, is not protected from civil legal actions that might be pursued by a court-appointed trustee liquidating Madoff's assets or by investor lawsuits.

Ruth Madoff broke her silence Monday when she said in a statement that her husband "stunned us all with his confession and is responsible for this terrible situation in which so many now find themselves."

Before she agreed on a deal with the government to resolve her finances a week ago, Ruth Madoff had



U.S. Marshal Roland Ubaldo, center, makes a statement on the steps of the building that housed disgraced financier Bernard Madoff, Thursday, July 2, 2009 in New York. Marshall Ubaldo stated that Ruth Madoff, wife of Bernard, surrendered the apartment and its contents to the authorities earlier this afternoon.

Associated Press

indicated through lawyers that she planned to try to keep the penthouse and an additional \$62 million in assets as unrelated to the fraud.

Before the fraud was exposed, the Madoffs had homes in Palm Beach, Florida, the south of France and the tip of Long Island along with the midtown Manhattan penthouse.

They also traveled by

private jet and yacht.

The couple met at their Queens high school and married in 1959. Ruth Madoff worked with her husband when he started his financial business in 1960 and she reportedly still had an office near his when the fraud was exposed.

Madoff has said he operated his fraud without the knowledge of his family. □



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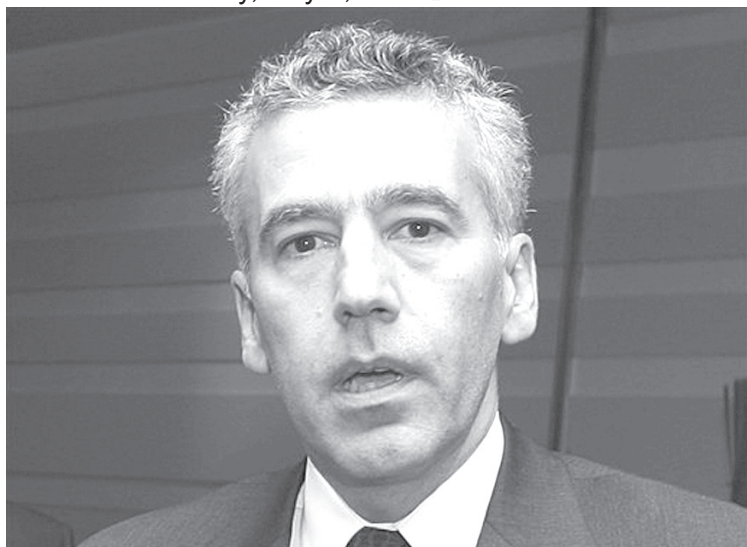
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Philip Goldberg, a United States envoy in charge of coordinating the implementation of sanctions against North Korea, speaks after meetings with Chinese officials in Beijing, China, Thursday, July 2, 2009. North Korea test-fired two short-range missiles Thursday, South Korea's Defense Ministry said, a move that aggravates already high tensions following Pyongyang's recent nuclear test and U.N. sanctions imposed as punishment.

Associated Press

NKOREA

Continued from Page B1

Pentagon spokesman Bryan Whitman said the United States remains concerned about North Korea's missile and nuclear programs but called Thursday's launches

"not unexpected."

Several U.S. Defense Department officials said there is nothing to indicate that North Korea is ready to launch a long-range ballistic missile and there appears to be no immediate threat to the

United States.

The April 5 launch of a Taepodong-2 required 12 days of preparation on the launch pad, which was fully observable to U.S. satellites. Short and medium-range missiles, however, can be launched with little notice. Missile defenses around Hawaii were beefed up following a mid-June report in a Japanese newspaper that the North might fire a long-range missile toward the islands in early July.

The head of the U.S. Northern Command, Gen. Victor E. "Gene" Renuart, said in an interview with the Washington Times this week that U.S. missile defenses are prepared to knock down any incoming North Korean missile. "I think we ought to assume there might be one on the Fourth of July," he said, according to the paper.

North Korea raised concern in late April when it explicitly threatened to test-fire an

intercontinental ballistic missile and warned of a nuclear test. The regime followed through with the atomic blast in May, leaving the ICBM test as its next likely step.

"I totally expect that we will see another long-range missile launch ... because they said they will do it," Ralph Cossa, president of the Pacific Forum CSIS think tank, told The Associated Press from Beijing where he was attending a nonproliferation conference.

The North's April launch, which is estimated to have sent a rocket about 2,000 miles (3,200 kilometers), represented a "significant advance" in the country's long-range rocket technology, the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists said in a recent report.

South Korea believes the Taepodong 2 can travel at least 4,100 miles (6,700 kilometers), putting Alaska and Guam within striking distance. The North is also believed to be developing

an advanced version of the Taepodong 2 that could reach not only Hawaii, but also the West Coast of the U.S. with a potential range of about 5,000 miles (8,000 kilometers).

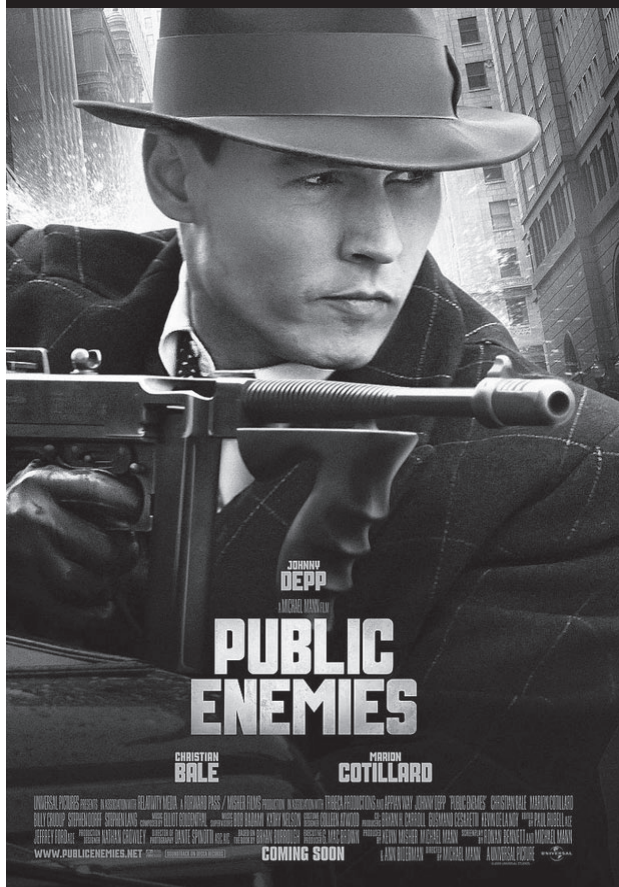
Pyongyang had earlier marked a large area of water off its east coast as a no-sail zone through July 10, citing military drills. Thursday's launches of four short-range missiles were believed to be the North's first military action in the designated zone.

Yonhap news agency, citing an unnamed military official, reported that all four missiles flew about 60 miles (100 kilometers) and identified them as KN-01 missiles with a range of up to 100 miles (160 kilometers).

Japanese Prime Minister Taro Aso denounced the launches as "provocative." South Korea's foreign minister, Yu Myung-hwan, said the firings are "not a good sign because they are demonstrating their military power." □



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	daily: 4:15 6:15			
	matinee: 2:10		late show:	
R	PUBLIC ENEMIES			NEW
	daily: 5:45 8:45			
	matinee: 12:00 2:50		late show: 11:30	
PG-13	TRANSFORMER 2			
	daily: 6:00 9:00			
	matinee: 12:00 2:50		late show: 11:50	
R	THE TAKING OF PELHAM 123			
	daily: 5:15 7:30 9:45			
	matinee: 12:40 3:05		late show: 12:00	
PG-13	YEAR ONE			
	daily: 5:50 8:00 10:05			
	matinee: 1:30 3:40		late show: 12:10	
PG	UP 3D			NEW
	daily: 12:05		late show:	
PG-13	TERMINATOR SALVATION			
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PG-13	YEAR ONE			
	daily: 7:00 9:20			
	matinee:		late show: 11:30	
PG-13	THE SOLOIST			
	daily: 5:50 8:15			
	matinee: 12:55 3:20		late show: 11:00	

IAEA chooses Japanese as new head of board

GEORGE JAHN

Associated Press Writer

VIENNA (AP) — The world's top nuclear watchdog chose Japan's Yukiya Amano as its next head on Thursday — and he touched on the devastation U.S. atom bombs wreaked on his country in pledging to do his utmost to prevent the spread of nuclear arms.

The decision by the 35-nation International Atomic Energy Agency board ended a tug of war on who should succeed Nobel Peace laureate Mohamed ElBaradei, who saw his agency vaulted into prominence during a high-profile 12-year tenure.

North Korea left the nonproliferation fold to develop a nuclear weapons program on ElBaradei's watch and his agency later launched inconclusive probes on

suspicious that those to nations were interested in developing nuclear weapons.

ElBaradei's activist approach to his job often rankled with Washington — and it had a strong preference for Amano, seen by the U.S. as a technocrat amenable to pursuing a hard line on Iran's nuclear ambitions.

Amano's allusions to the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki pointed to a deep commitment to non-proliferation. And Japan, which is separated from North Korea only by a narrow body of water, keenly shares the United States' concerns about Pyongyang's nuclear program.

Developing countries supported Amano's rival, South Africa's Abdul Samad Minty, considered ready to

challenge the U.S. and other nuclear power countries on issues such as disarmament — and which are generally supportive of Iran's claims to having a right to nuclear power.

An initial session in March ended inconclusively and Thursday's meeting went down to the wire, with Amano winning only in the fourth round.

That and the fact that Amano barely eked out his victory, just clearing the two-thirds majority needed, reflected a continuing divide between the two camps. The divisions have served as an obstacle in one of its key tasks — probing nations suspected of secret, possibly weapons-related, nuclear activities.

While Amano was born after the U.S. nuclear strikes



New director general of the IAEA, Japan's Yukiya Amano, is seen after his election in Vienna, Austria Thursday, July 2, 2009. The present head, Mohamed ElBaradei, is scheduled to end his term in November. A previous round of balloting in March was indecisive.

Associated Press

that ravaged Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945, he alluded to those events in brief comments to reporters, suggesting that as a “national coming from Japan” he would work particularly hard to reduce the threat from atomic arms.

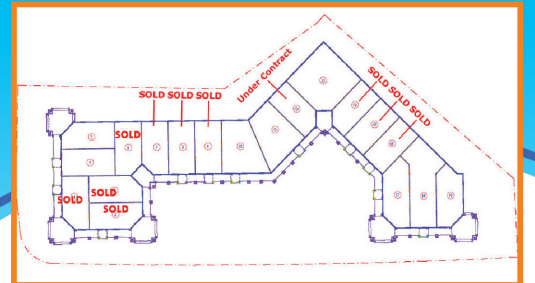
Expanding on that theme in recent comments to the Austrian daily, Die Presse, he said that he was “resolute in

opposing the spread of nuclear arms because I am from a country that experienced Hiroshima and Nagasaki.”

Now his country's chief delegate to the IAEA, Amano was previously his country's senior official for disarmament and related issues. He has also chaired key IAEA meetings during his more than three-year tenure as chief IAEA delegate. □

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American soldier feared captured in Afghanistan

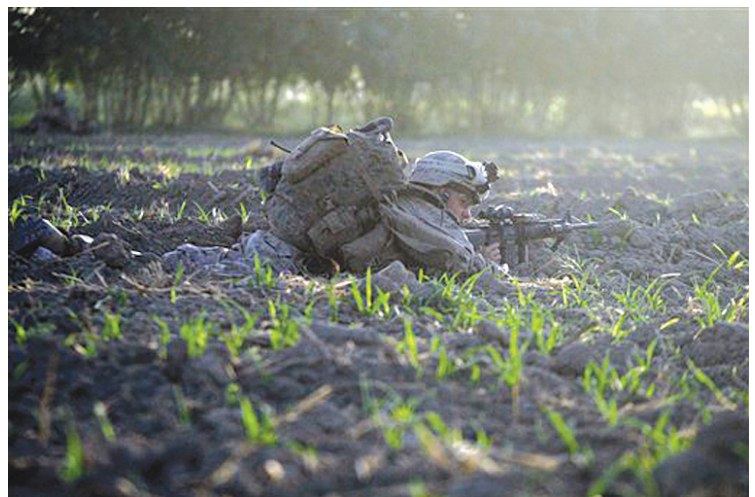
PAULINE JELINEK

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — An American soldier is feared captured by insurgents after he walked off his base in eastern Afghanistan without his body armor and weapon, officials said Thursday. The military has intercepted communications in which insurgents talked about holding an American, one U.S. official said on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak on the record. But several officials declined to say whether there has been any direct communications with the insurgents, nor whether any demands had been made for the soldier's return. The military was largely silent about details surrounding the kidnapping, believed the first such abduction of a U.S. service member in the nearly eight-year-old war. "We are not providing further details to protect the soldier's well-being," said Capt. Elizabeth Mathias, a spokeswoman in Afghanistan. Officials would not release his name, rank or other details.

"We understand him to have been captured by militant forces," Mathias said. "We have all available resources out there looking for him and hopefully providing for his safe return." U.S. troops were brought in from nearby areas to help with the search, which included helicopters, Afghan Army support and increased use of intelligence gathering resources, officials said. There was no immediate public claim of responsibility from any insurgent group. But large sweeps of eastern Afghanistan along Pakistan's border are believed controlled by the Taliban faction known as the Haqqani network, which also operates on the Pakistan side in that nation's lawless tribal region. The network is led by warlord Sirajuddin Haqqani, whom the U.S. has accused of masterminding beheadings and suicide bombings including the July 2008 attack on the Indian Embassy in Kabul that killed some 60 people. The Haqqani group was also linked to an assassination attempt earlier last year on Afghan president

Hamid Karzai. News of the suspected capture broke as thousands of U.S. Marines launched a major anti-Taliban offensive in southern Afghanistan. The missing soldier was not part of that operation. Afghan Police Gen. Nabi Mullahheil said the soldier went missing in eastern Paktika province, where there is an American base operating near the Pakistan border. The soldier was noticed missing during a routine check of the unit on Tuesday and was first listed as "duty status whereabouts unknown," a U.S. defense official said on condition of anonymity. Though he was missing, his body armor and weapon were found on the base, two officials said. It wasn't until Thursday that officials said publicly that he was missing and described him as "believed captured." Details of such incidents are routinely held very tightly by the military as it works to retrieve a missing or captured soldier without giving away any information to captors. Initial reports indicated that



A U.S. Marine from the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade, 1st Battalion 5th Marines takes cover in a farm fields after landing by helicopter in an overnight night air assault near the Taliban stronghold of Nawa in Afghanistan's Helmand province Thursday July 2, 2009. Thousands of U.S. Marines poured from helicopters and armored vehicles into Taliban-controlled villages of southern Afghanistan Thursday in the first major operation under President Barack Obama's strategy to stabilize the country.

Associated Press

the soldier was off duty at the time he went missing, having just completed a shift, one of the officials said. Two U.S. defense sources said the soldier "just walked off" post with three Afghans after he finished working. They said they had no explanation for why he left the base. The missing man is an enlisted soldier serving in an Army infantry unit, and his family has been notified he is missing. The unit was assigned to a combat outpost, one of a number of smaller bases set up by foreign forces in Afghanistan, the officials said.

Myriad insurgent groups operate in eastern Afghanistan, and the Taliban is only one of them. Zabiullah Mujaheed, a spokesman for the Taliban, could not confirm that the soldier was with any of their forces. If the fears of the soldier's capture are borne out, insurgents could exploit the development by making demands such as a prisoner exchange or use it for propaganda. A number of civilians have been abducted in Afghanistan including aid workers and journalists — both foreigners and Afghans. □

Court decriminalizes gay sex in Indian capital

MUNEEZA NAQVI

Associated Press Writer

NEW DELHI (AP) — New Delhi's gay community celebrated a landmark court ruling Thursday that decriminalizes homosexuality — a decision that could end widespread police harassment and be a harbinger for gradual acceptance for homosexuals across this deeply conservative country.

The Delhi High Court ruled that treating consensual gay sex between adults as a crime is a violation of fundamental rights protected by India's constitution. The ruling, the first of its kind in India, is not binding outside New Delhi.

Hours after the ruling was issued dozens of members of New Delhi's gay community — some with rainbows painted on their faces and others holding signs that read "Queer and loving it" — gathered in the heart of the capital to celebrate.

"I'm so excited and I haven't been able to process the news yet," said Anjali Gopalan, the executive director of the Naz Foundation (India) Trust, the sexual health organization that filed the petition with the court.

"We've finally entered the 21st century."

But some religious leaders quickly criticized the ruling. "This Western culture cannot be permitted in our country," said Maulana Khalid Rashid Farangi Mahali, a leading Muslim cleric in the northern city of Lucknow.

Sex between people of the same gender has been illegal in India since a British colonial era law was issued in the 1860s classifying it as "against the order of nature." According to the law, gay sex is punishable by 10 years in prison.

While actual criminal prosecutions are few, the law frequently has been used to harass people. The court's

verdict should protect New Delhi's gay community from criminal charges and police harassment.

"This legal remnant of British colonialism has been used to deprive people of their basic rights for too long," Scott Long, director of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Rights Program at Human Rights Watch, said in a statement. "This long-awaited decision testifies to the reach of democracy and rights in India." The verdict came more than eight years after the New Delhi-based Naz Foundation filed its petition — not unusually long in India's notoriously clogged court system. The decision can still be challenged in India's Supreme Court. The government has remained vague about its



Gay rights activists participate in a rally celebrating the groundbreaking ruling by the Delhi High Court Thursday decriminalizing homosexuality, in Calcutta, India, Thursday, July 2, 2009. The court ruled that treating consensual gay sex as a crime is a violation of fundamental rights protected by India's constitution, a decision that could bring more freedom for gays in this deeply conservative country. The ruling, the first of its kind in India, applies only in New Delhi.

Associated Press

position on the law, and Law Minister M. Veerappa Moily said he would examine the high court's order before commenting. "Our effort will be to try to see that the government

does not appeal to the Supreme Court. There is a chance that others will go and appeal," Anand Grover, a member of a lawyers group involved in the case, said in Geneva. □



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Sister Act 4: Venus, Serena reach Wimbledon final

HOWARD FENDRICH

AP Tennis Writer

WIMBLEDON, England (AP) — Richard Williams refuses to watch his daughters Venus and Serena play each other. Says he simply can't bear to see it, no matter the setting, no matter the stage.

So once again, the patriarch of the greatest sister act in tennis history is heading home to the United States before the Wimbledon final. That's because the women's singles championship at the All England Club is Venus Williams vs. Serena Williams for the second year in a row and fourth time overall.

The way the sisters won in Thursday's semifinals could hardly have been more different. "Serena nearly gave me a heart attack," Dad said. "Venus played as if she had some place to go, and she was in a major league hurry to get



Venus Williams, left talks to sister Serena Williams, right during their doubles match against Anna-Lena Groenfeld of Germany and Vania King of USA on court No. 2 at Wimbledon, Wednesday, July 1, 2009.

Associated Press

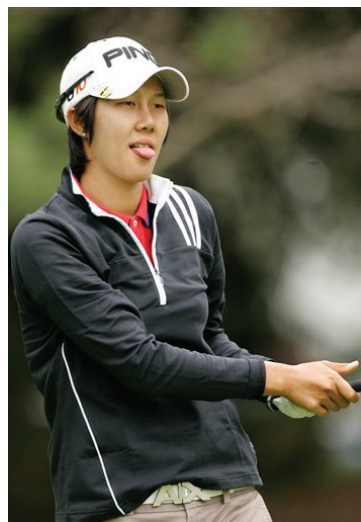
a great dinner."

Serena went on Centre Court first and came within a point of losing to Beijing Olympics gold medalist Elena Dementieva before grunting and grinding her way to a 6-7 (4), 7-5, 8-6 victory that lasted 2 hours, 49 minutes — longer than any Wimbledon women's semifinal or final on record.

"Definitely one of my more dramatic victories," said Serena, who walloped a tournament-high 20 aces. "I felt like I was down pretty much the whole match."

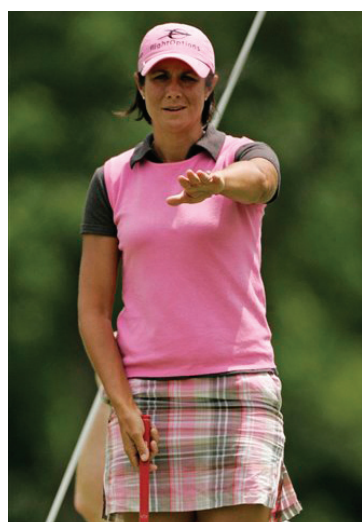
Venus followed and dominated the No. 1-ranked woman, Dinara Safina, in an astonishingly easy 6-1, 6-0 win that took merely 51 minutes and equaled the most lopsided semifinal result here over the last 74 years.

Continued on Page B13



Song-Hee Kim, from South Korea, left, reacts as she watches her tee shot on the 18th hole in the first round, and Laura Diaz, right, lines up the putt on the 18th hole in the first round at the Jamie Farr Owens Corning Classic golf tournament Thursday, July 2, 2009, in Sylvania, Ohio. Kim and Diaz finished the first round at 7-under par. at the Jamie Farr Owens Corning Classic golf tournament Thursday, July 2, 2009, in Sylvania, Ohio.

Associated Press



RUSTY MILLER

AP Sports Writer

SYLVANIA, Ohio (AP) — Morgan Pressel, Kim Song-hee and Laura Diaz made the most of the defending champion's absence at the Jamie Farr Owens Corning

Classic on Thursday.

Each shot a 7-under 64 after Paula Creamer withdrew because of a thumb injury, taking a one-shot lead over Michelle Wie and Suzann Pettersen after the opening round at Highland Meadows.

Three share Farr lead after first round

Pressel, who was second at the Farr two years ago to five-time winner Se Ri Pak, didn't have a bogey and birdied four holes in a row late in her round. Her 64 matched her best round since joining the tour in 2006. After bursting on the scene with a runner-up finish at the 2005 U.S. Women's Open, Pressel was considered a budding star, and became the youngest player to win a major at the 2007 Kraft Nabisco Championship.

She's won only once since, and is trying to end a victory drought just like her co-leaders.

Kim, who is winless in 56 career U.S. LPGA Tour events, twice birdied three consecutive holes during her round. Diaz hasn't won in seven years, but holed a wedge shot for eagle at the par-4 17th hole to move to the top of the leaderboard. Wie also could use a victory. Despite being in the U.S.

LPGA spotlight since she was 12, and winning the Women's Amateur Publiclink a year later, she is winless since earning her tour card last year. She has three top-10 finishes in her seven starts this season. She used her length off the tee to shoot her lowest competitive round since turning pro, and rebounded from her only bogey to birdie two of her last three holes. Five of Wie's seven birdies came on putts of 10 feet or less.

Pettersen aced the 154-yard third hole with a 7 iron.

Another shot back after rounds of 66 were Cristie Kerr, Inbee Park, Jiyai Shin, Lindsey Wright and Jee Young Lee, as more than half of the field broke par on an overcast day.

The large group at 67 was led by top-ranked Lorena Ochoa, making her first appearance at the Farr since 2004. She offset a double-bogey with birdies on her final two holes.

Creamer led from start to finish in beating Nicole Castrale by two shots a year ago.

After an injured left thumb forced her to withdraw from last week's Wegmans LPGA in Pittsford, New York, she saw a doctor on Monday in suburban Toledo and received a cortisone shot. She was unable to play a practice round but did participate in the program on Wednesday. Creamer then came to the course early Thursday and worked on the driving range before tearfully telling tournament officials she was withdrawing.

"This is an event I feel a very special bond with and it's disappointing not to be able to defend my title," she said in a statement.

Creamer said she hopes to play in next week's U.S. Women's Open at Saucon Valley Country Club in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. □

Kimets course record at Congressional with 62

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

BETHESDA, Maryland (AP) — Anthony Kim ran off eight birdies over his final 13 holes and set the course record with an 8-under 62 for a two-shot lead over AT&T National host Tiger Woods and two others on Thursday.

The 24-year-old Kim has not won since his victory here at Congressional Country Club last year, as he was slowed by an assortment of injuries that caused his game to slip just as he was being anointed as the next great American player.

It was the best round of his U.S. PGA Tour career, although Kim walked off the par-5 ninth green slightly perturbed after narrowly missing a 10-foot birdie putt. Apparently, eight birdies wasn't enough.

"You don't have many opportunities to bust a 61," Kim said.

But it was enough to hold off Woods, who missed his tournament last year after having season-ending knee surgery. Woods played in the afternoon with deceptive wind swirling from trees lining the fairways. He missed only two fairways and three greens, and made enough putts for a 64, his lowest round since the 2007 U.S. Tour Championship.

"Today was nice to get back inside the ropes and get out there and try to catch AK," Woods said. "He lit it up this morning."

Bryce Molder, who can qualify for the British Open with a strong week at Congressional, hit a 3-wood to 4 feet on the par-3 second hole and escaped trouble a few times on the back nine to join a group at 64 that also included D.A. Points.

Former U.S. PGA champion Steve Elkington was another shot back on a day of exceptional scoring in relatively soft conditions from overnight rain in the Washington area.

"You can be so aggressive out there," Woods said. "You can fire at a lot of flags. The fairways got wide because it's not going to run out. If you get aggressive and get it going, you can post a number out there."

Three dozen players shots in the 60s, including Jim Furyk in the group at 66 and U.S. Open champion Lucas Glover at 69. Nearly half the

120-man field was at par or better.

As a tournament host, Woods took some solace that 3-under 67 was still good enough to be in the top 10. As a player, he saw Kim at 62 before he teed off and realized he had better stay as close as he could. "This is the day to pull it off," he said, "because the greens are so soft."

Kim extended his bogey-free streak at Congressional to 40 holes, dating to the third round a year ago. He missed only one green, coming up just short on the 18th and chipping to about 3 feet. The longest par putt he faced all day was from 4 feet.

"Whenever you can make a bunch of birdies and not bogeys to follow it up, it's going to be a good day," Kim said. "And fortunately, I kept the ball in play for most of the day and finally got some putts to fall this year."

Even though it's the first week of July, it already feels like a long year to Kim.

He has not finished in the top 10 since his runner-up



Anthony Kim sizes up his shot after finding the rough on the eighth hole during the third round of the Travelers Championship golf tournament in Cromwell, Conn., on Saturday June 27, 2009. Kim went on to bogie the hole.

Associated Press

finish in the season-opening tournament in Hawaii, as he traveled the world while coping with injuries, the latest to his left thumb. He had to regrip the club on his backswing, making him tentative.

But as the strength returned, Kim has been able to set the club properly and swing more explosively through the ball. As he worked his way along a rail to sign autographs, Fred Funk looked over at

Kim and asked him what he shot. Without looking up, Kim casually told him he had a 62.

Sixty-what?" Funk said, not believing what he heard. "Where did you cut over?"

There were no shortcuts for Kim, and only limited theatrics. Only two of his birdie putts were tap-in range, as Kim played to spots on the green instead of getting locked in on the flag when it didn't make sense. □

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The Shaq Show: O'Neal wants a ring for the King



Cleveland Cavaliers center Shaquille O'Neal accepts his Cavs jersey from Patrick Powell, 13, left, of Cleveland and James Robinson, 14, also of Cleveland at the O'Neal introductory news conference at the Cavaliers practice facility in Independence, Ohio, Thursday, July 2, 2009. O'Neal was acquired by the Cavs from the Phoenix Suns in a June 25 trade. The boys are from the St. Martin de Porres Family Center in Cleveland.

Associated Press

TOM WITHERS
AP Sports Writer

INDEPENDENCE, Ohio (AP) — Shaquille O'Neal and his oversized persona debuted in Cleveland on Thursday with a stated goal for next season. His friend LeBron "King" James craves a championship, and O'Neal is here to serve.

"My motto is very simple," O'Neal said. "Win a ring for the King."

The 15-time All-Star center with four NBA titles was bedecked in a black suit,

pink shirt and pink tie for an introductory news conference that might as well have been billed The Shaq Show.

Acquired last week in a blockbuster trade with the Phoenix Suns, O'Neal was welcomed by a team that believes he can bring this title-thirsty region its first U.S. pro sports crown in 45 years.

Flanked by Cavaliers general manager Danny Ferry and coach Mike Brown, O'Neal held court for nearly a half hour as only Shaq can. In front of an audience that

included owner Dan Gilbert, media members, season ticket-holders, corporate partners and kids from a summer camp, O'Neal gave Cleveland fans their first glimpse of what's in store next year — and maybe beyond.

Joined by his wife, Shaunie, O'Neal was calm, comedic and oozing — as always — with confidence. Clutching the microphone and delivering his answers in his unmistakable, bottomless baritone, O'Neal addressed topics ranging from a possible contract extension in Cleveland to James' future to his Twitter page to a budding rivalry with Orlando center Dwight Howard.

The 37-year-old O'Neal has one season at \$21 million left on a five-year, \$100 million contract. However, early in his remarks he said, "I've got three years left in my career," perhaps an initial attempt to persuade the Cavaliers to extend his deal past 2010.

"I have a lot left," he said. "There's only four or five good centers in the league and I'm in that number. ... I've been in it (the NBA) for 17 years but I've missed three years because of injury. If you do the math, I've still got three years left. You got that?"

The Cavaliers most likely will ride out next season before making any plans with O'Neal, but the fifth-leading scorer in league history made it clear he doesn't want to be around for just one year. Rent-a-Shaq is not his idea of a lasting

impact.

Cleveland, which hasn't celebrated a championship since the Browns won the NFL title in 1964, is the first cold-weather NBA city O'Neal has played in following stops in Orlando, Los Angeles, Miami and Phoenix.

None of those is known for blizzards, and Gilbert presented O'Neal with a large pair of winter boots — with the toes cut out — and an oversized shovel.

O'Neal has no concerns about Ohio's climate. His only focus is on warming James with a title.

"It's LeBron's team," he said. "He's the captain. This is the time in my career where I can fit in. I'm now in the security business. My job is to protect the King, and that's what I'm here to do."

The 7-foot-1, 325-pounder (2.16-meter, 147-kilogram center) had difficulty meshing in with Phoenix's run-and-gun style. The Suns made just one playoff appearance during his 1½ seasons in the desert, but O'Neal is confident he can adapt to whatever offense the Cavaliers install.

"I'm pretty much able to play any style," he said, turning and touching Brown's shoulder. "I'm not here to demand 40 or 50 shots. But I would like 30. "I'm just coming here to do my part and help a damn good team get over the hump."

The Cavaliers won 66 games during the regular season and eight straight to open

the playoffs, but they came up short last month when they were eliminated by the Orlando Magic in the Eastern Conference finals.

There is a greater sense of urgency in Cleveland to win it all because James is entering his final year under contract and there are no guarantees he will stay.

When asked about James' plans, O'Neal said his Uncle Jerome, who was in attendance, had taught him to "never worry about tomorrow, worry about today."

O'Neal is sure that if James wins his first title in Cleveland, he'll stay around for more.

"In a perfect world and we win and take care of business, he has no choice but to stay here," O'Neal said. "If we do what we came here to do, everything will fall into place."

O'Neal joked that his trade to Cleveland made his family happy.

"My sons love LeBron more than they love me," he said. "I'm just a little jealous about it."

He's already got four rings, winning three straight titles with Kobe Bryant and the Lakers and one in Miami with Dwyane Wade.

"They say things happen in three," he said. "I won with the great Kobe, the great D-Wade and now it's my job to win one with the great LeBron James. We have everything in place. We just got to get it done." □

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Russian'd off



Dinara Safina of Russia, left, reacts while playing Venus Williams of U.S. plays during their semifinal match on centre court at Wimbledon, Thursday, July 2, 2009, and Elena Dementieva of Russia, right, looks skywards, during her women's singles semifinal against Serena Williams of U.S., on the Centre Court at Wimbledon, Thursday, July 2, 2009.

Associated Press

WIMBLEDON

Continued from Page B10

"The score just showed my level of play," the third-seeded Venus said. "I was just dictating on every point."

In Saturday's final, Venus will be trying to win her sixth Wimbledon and eighth Grand Slam title. Serena will be trying to win her third Wimbledon and 11th Grand Slam title.

It's the eighth all-Williams major final (Serena leads 5-2) and their 21st meeting on tour (they're tied 10-all).

"The more we play, the better it gets. When we play our match on Saturday, it's for everything. This is what we dreamed of when we were growing up in Compton (California), 20-something years ago," Serena said. "This is what we worked for, and this is what we want. Like, I wanted her to win today, and she wanted me to win today."

Venus has won 20 consecutive matches at Wimbledon; if she makes that 21, she will become the first woman since Steffi Graf in 1991-93 to win the tournament three straight years.

Serena nearly didn't make it. Seeded second, she hadn't lost a set all tournament, yet found herself trailing the fourth-seeded Dementieva.

The Russian is often pointed to as the best player without a Grand Slam title — if it isn't her, it's probably Safina — and the biggest weakness in her game long has been her serve.

She double-faulted eight times, but there were moments when that stroke got her out of trouble, including a second-serve ace. Surprisingly, it was her normally sturdy groundstrokes that let Dementieva down. Of course, Serena had something to do with that.

Dementieva's match point came at 5-4 in the third set, with Serena serving at 30-40. Dementieva had a backhand passing shot set up and tried to hit the ball cross-court, but Serena hit a backhand volley that clipped the tape and landed in.

"The only regret I have — Maybe I should take a little bit more risk on match point, go down the line," Dementieva said.

It was one of dozens of spectacular points in a match filled with momentum swings and superb play. With the temperature rising, Dementieva slathered white sunscreen on her face and behind her knees, and put a plastic bag of ice on her neck and armpits at changeovers. Both women took time to catch their breath after lengthy rallies.

The match might very well have hinged on a key point, when Dementieva led 4-3 in the second set and Serena double-faulted to 30-40. One more point, and Dementieva would serve for the match. But Serena hit a forehand winner that barely — we're talking less than a quarter-inch — landed on the chalk on a sideline. It was one of only seven forehand winners for Serena. □

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Jefe OEA viaja a Honduras, presionará vuelta Zelaya

TEGUCIGALPA (Reuters)

- El secretario general de la OEA llegará a Honduras el viernes para presionar por la vuelta al poder del derrocado mandatario Manuel Zelaya, mientras el presidente interino aceptaba la posibilidad de adelantar las elecciones para resolver la crisis política.

La Organización de Estados Americanos (OEA) dio de plazo hasta el sábado para que el Gobierno que encabeza el ex presidente del Congreso Roberto Micheletti reconozca a Zelaya como presidente o suspenderá al país del organismo.

“Esperamos que los líderes del golpe reconozcan el daño que le están haciendo al país y al mundo y permitan el regreso del presidente Zelaya”, dijo a Reuters en Guyana el jefe del organismo, José Miguel Insulza.

Poco después, Micheletti dijo estar dispuesto a adelantar las elecciones previstas para el 29 noviembre. “Totalmente de acuerdo, siempre dentro de la ley, no tengo ninguna objeción si acaso esa es una manera de solucionar estos problemas”, dijo el mandatario en una rueda de prensa respondiendo a una pregunta expresa sobre el tema.

Micheletti dijo que su Gobierno quiere presentar a Insulza una cronología de todo lo acontecido en las últimas



Simpatizantes del derrocado presidente de Honduras Manuel Zelaya participan en una marcha en Tegucigalpa, 2 jul 2009. REUTERS/Tomas Bravo

semanas para probar que el derrocamiento de Zelaya fue legal.

El presidente interino insiste en que su gobierno es legítimo pese al repudio mundial ante lo acontecido el domingo, cuando un grupo de militares allanó la residencia de Zelaya y lo sacó del país a punta de rifle.

Zelaya reiteró en Panamá que planea regresar, aunque evitó abundar en detalles para no dar “armas al enemigo”.

“Hay toda una estrategia y un plan, además apoyado por la comunidad internacional, no para violencia (...) Lo que pretendemos es que el pueblo

se manifieste y que el pueblo haga que estos dictadores, estos aprendices de tiranos rectifiquen lo más pronto posible”, dijo en conferencia de prensa.

Una solución negociada en aún parece lejana, luego de que varios de los funcionarios rechazaran de plano la posibilidad de que regrese Zelaya, cuyo viraje a la izquierda y su alianza con el venezolano Hugo Chávez irritó a las elites conservadoras y al sector privado.

Mientras tanto, la presión internacional crecía y el jueves la Unión Europea informó que retirará a los 27 embajadores

de los países miembro del bloque, un nuevo paso que aísla aún más al Gobierno interino.

SIGUEN PROTESTAS

En Honduras, los ánimos estaban lejos de calmarse, entre manifestantes que exigen el retorno del “presidente legítimo” y los que aprueban el golpe de Estado como la única solución para que el país se salvara de una “dictadura socialista”.

Miles de personas marcharon hasta la sede de Naciones Unidas en Tegucigalpa, para aplaudir la resolución del organismo esta semana para que ninguno de sus 192 miembros reconozca al Gobierno de Micheletti.

“Le pedimos a las Naciones Unidas que sigan en la misma posición porque aquí está el pueblo en las calles. La gente que sale por los medios en esas marchas (las pro Micheletti) son pagados”, expresó Rina García, una empleada del sector salud de 44 años que participaba en la marcha.

En San Pedro Sula, ciudad industrial en el norte del país, miles de manifestantes usando camisetas blancas y ondeando

banderas de Honduras apoyaron al actual Gobierno interino, portando carteles caricaturescos de Zelaya y su aliado, el presidente venezolano Hugo Chávez.

“Estamos defendiendo nuestra Constitución”, “OEA, queremos democracia, no a Chávez”, decían carteles de manifestantes en San Pedro Sula, según imágenes de canales de televisión afines al Gobierno interino.

Muchos hondureños acusan a Zelaya de seguir los pasos del mandatario venezolano para permanecer en el poder, luego de que insistiera en realizar una consulta popular que abriera el camino a la reelección pese a la oposición de los tribunales y las fuerzas políticas, incluyendo su propio partido.

Apoyado por el Congreso, el Poder Judicial, las Fuerzas Armadas y los empresarios, el Gobierno interino continúa tomando juramento a funcionarios y tratando de consolidar el control del país pese a la presión diplomática y el impacto de la crisis en la economía.

Las golpeadas finanzas del empobrecido país productor de café y textiles ha comenzado sentir los efectos del bloqueo comercial centroamericano, mientras organismos como el Banco Mundial y el Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo (BID) suspendieron vitales préstamos.

Santiago Ruiz, un empresario de la asociación de ganaderos, dijo que su sector está perdiendo cerca de 30 millones de dólares al día por el cierre de fronteras al comercio decretada por países vecinos de Centroamérica.

No obstante, el Gobierno izquierdista de El Salvador anunció el jueves el levantamiento de las sanciones. □

Gobierno interino Honduras, dispuesto a adelantar comicios

TEGUCIGALPA (Reuters) - El presidente interino de Honduras, Roberto Micheletti, dijo el jueves que estaría de acuerdo con adelantar los comicios como una eventual salida a la crisis política en el país centroamericano, luego de que el mandatario Manuel Zelaya fuera derrocado el domingo.

Cuando se le preguntó si estaría dispuesto a adelantar las elecciones presidenciales programadas para el 29 de noviembre,

Micheletti respondió: “Totalmente de acuerdo, siempre dentro de la ley, no tengo ninguna objeción si acaso esa es una manera de solucionar estos problemas”.

Además, dijo a periodistas que estaría de acuerdo en hacer un referendo para preguntarle a los hondureños si están de acuerdo con el retorno de Zelaya al poder, aunque aclaró que no lo haría en este momento “sumamente difícil” para el país. □



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